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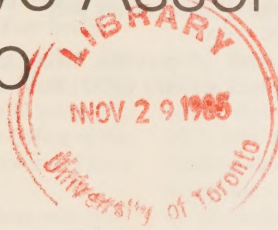


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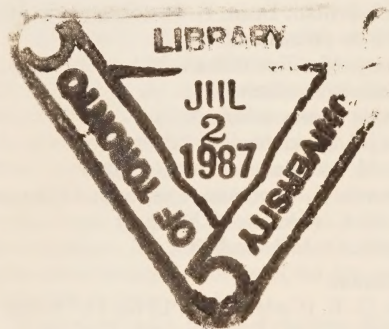
Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Office of the Assembly



First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, November 6, 1985

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, November 6, 1985

The committee met at 10:18 a.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Chairman: I understand there will be someone from the New Democratic Party here in a moment or two. I would just like to say good morning to everyone, to introduce the estimates of the Office of the Assembly and to ask Mr. Speaker to talk for no longer than four hours.

Mr. Speaker: That is a good suggestion. We might get away from any questions then. First, thank you for this first opportunity to present to the committee the estimates of the Office of the Assembly. It is a new experience for me. I have been looking forward to it.

There are some new members here who may not know some of the members of the staff of the Office of the Assembly, so I will introduce a few of them to you. You all know the Clerk of the House, Roderick Lewis. To his left is Bob Fleming, director of administration of the Office of the Assembly and his executive assistant, Michael Wiebe. Next is Larry Waters, the new director of finance, and Jan Robinson, assistant director of finance, and also against the wall is Ellen Schoenberger, director of human resources. There is Mr. Peter Brannan, editor of debates for Hansard, and Brian Land, executive director of the legislative library. I wanted you to know these people who are always available and of service to you.

It is important at the outset to point out to the members, since you have received the estimates, that they show a fairly good increase—to the sum of \$45,862,700. This represents a 24.7 per cent increase over last year. In order to begin the review process, I will try to briefly highlight some of the reasons behind the substantial increases in this year's estimates.

On the second page, members will see a large increase under the heading "Sessional Requirements." An amount of \$590,800 has been included for the implementation of the initial phase of the members' office automation networking system. In addition, there were plans—which were approved—to extend the members' pilot project for another six months at a cost of

\$60,600. Those two items are added to the increase in sessional requirements.

Under the heading "Members' Support Services," a per member staff allowance was approved by the Board of Internal Economy for support staff salaries in both the Queen's Park and constituency offices. This allowance went into effect on June 17 of this year and was prorated for the 1985-86 fiscal year at a cost of \$3,959,000.

Under the heading "Caucus Support Services," there was an increase of \$1,004,800, as a result of two factors. An increase in the per caucus formula funding allocation accounted for \$927,100, while adjustments to the nonformula funding added an additional \$77,700. The major items that contributed to the substantial increase in the nonformula funds were new print room equipment and a new phone service for the New Democratic Party caucus.

I am not pointing a finger at the NDP caucus. I believe similar figures are included in estimates for previous years. There is no doubt they will be included in future years for similar services for other party caucuses.

Under the heading "Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses," an increase of \$2,627,200 in the appropriations for this commission was required. There was a provincial election on May 2, 1985, as you are all aware. This required funds for candidate campaign expenses, campaign audit costs, advertising, professional fees and other general administrative expenses. I expect the chairman will be here some time during the course of the day and will elaborate on those items.

In previous years, the chief election officer was listed under Office of the Assembly. However, the statutes were revised in December 1984, as members will know. The office of the chief election officer has separate status from the Office of the Assembly. I believe those estimates will be dealt with at another time.

We have Mr. Bailie and Mr. Stewart here. They are members of the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission. I do not know if it would be possible to consider that item first on our agenda, rather than having them sit here today.

I will close by saying this is my first appearance before the estimates review committee as Speaker. I look forward to an open discussion. Due to the very limited time we have, I will do all that is possible to answer your questions, and I hope it would be all right if I also call upon my staff for support for those answers.

Mr. Chairman: There is a slight problem with the Office of the Assembly estimates in that it was presumed we would deal with the election office at this committee within the four hours allocated. Unfortunately, those estimates were not referred to the committee. Todd tells me we may well be asked to spend an hour on the election office at some later date. It may be referred and we may start with that next week, if the committee agrees. Does anybody wish to speak to the comments made by the Speaker?

Mr. McClellan: I just want to say I think this Speaker is doing a super job.

Mr. Chairman: Do you agree that we devote whatever time we wish to the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission? Agreed.

Mr. Bailie: I would like to point out that Jim Whelan, our administrative assistant, is here with us today too. He was one of the technicians in the drafting of the maps and so forth.

Mr. Stewart: My name is Alan Stewart. I am secretary to the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission. I am sure you all know Mr. Warren Bailie, our vice-chairman. Mr. Whelan has been introduced to you.

The commission's work for this fiscal year, pursuant to the terms of reference, is the consideration of the objections filed by members of the Legislative Assembly and of the debate of those objections in the assembly. Subsequent to that there is the consideration of those objections and then the commission must dispose of the objections of the members. I am not sure who suggested that wording, but that is what it is in the terms of reference.

After disposing of the objections, the commission will file a supplementary report to its report of November 1984, if necessary, to dispose of the objections. Then we will prepare a draft representation act which would embody the report as amended and present maps illustrating the districts recommended in the final report. In addition, we will prepare maps illustrating each electoral district as described in the act; that is, separate official maps for each district.

There is not too much I have to say about the content of the estimates except that the commission's estimates, when prepared quite some time

ago, were originally prepared under the assumption that the commission would conclude its work by September this year, about two months ago. The commission did not want to assume for itself a perpetual existence. That is not the way it turned out, and it may be that because of this the commission will request supplementary moneys at a future meeting of the Board of Internal Economy.

The major item of expenditure in the fiscal year covers simply the preparation of maps which will illustrate the electoral districts as described in the final or amended supplementary report and the preparation of the report itself.

Those are the only comments I have about the estimates. Mr. Bailie or I would certainly be happy to answer questions members of the committee might have.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure members realize this is a statutory item and no vote is required. Any comments would be appropriate.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. Epp: I have a question. Exactly where are we with respect to preparing those new maps?

Mr. Stewart: We cannot start preparing the new maps until the Legislature has finished debating the objections and we have made our decisions.

Ms. E. J. Smith: To be more precise, it seems to me we have estimated about 14 more speeches, or something in that neighbourhood.

Mr. Gregory: Growing by the day.

Ms. E. J. Smith: Eventually everyone will have spoken.

Mr. Gregory: I have a question for one of the gentlemen. Could you give me some kind of a time frame? I have not been too clear on what happens now. I understand that when all of the speeches have taken place, and the final objection or comment has been made, that is voted on in the Legislature and is sent back to you people to begin dealing with whatever you do. That is when you get out your black crayon again and start marking the map. How long does that take?

Mr. Bailie: I will attempt to answer that question. There is what we have referred to in our meetings as the 30 days of decision. When we receive from the Speaker the copy of the debate, the commission will, within 30 days, make its decisions on the input from the House. So within 30 days we will decide on all the objections and we will start preparing the maps.

Needless to say, I cannot speak for all the commissioners, but I would expect the commission might, for example, take northern Ontario at

its very first meeting and say, "There are very few objections; we will deal with them right away." That would then proceed to the office of the surveyor general for whatever changes there may be or for the preparation of maps for that section. We would then just continue to deal with all the objections and make all decisions regarding objections within 30 days. At the same time, work would be proceeding on making the map.

We would then be in touch with the Speaker within, say, two months to say that we have made our decisions and a draft representation act will be on its way up as a suggestion. It will then be up to the timetable of the House as to when it will be dealt with.

Mr. McClellan: Is this two months after the 30 days, or two months after the conclusion?

Mr. Bailie: No, two months including the 30 days. That would be my estimate. It does involve a lot of people at the office of the surveyor general, the printers and so forth. I was a printer before coming to the government's service and I would estimate we should have that ready in about 60 days from the time it is turned back to us by the House.

Mr. Gregory: It is very difficult for any elected member to be totally objective in viewing your work. I hope you can appreciate that. We are somewhat less objective in many things, are we not? It seemed to me, in viewing the results in the two submissions you made, that perhaps there was more attention given to numbers of voters as opposed to the other criteria that were given to you. I do not mean that as a criticism so much. I can appreciate using numbers is probably the easiest way. Not being totally familiar with the boundaries that you are talking about, except on a map, it is very difficult for you people to have any conception of what the natural boundaries would be in a community of interest and that sort of thing.

Because of the input of the many members who will have spoken from all three parties on this matter, will you then be directing more of your attention to these other criteria when you prepare your final submission?

Mr. Bailie: I can speak only as one member of the commission, but I think two points should be made here. First, the resolution directs the commission to, on the basis of the census and with several other considerations—in that order, the basis of the census and considering this, this and this—proceed with the redistribution of the boundaries. So one of the cornerstones of redistribution is the change in population, because otherwise there would not have been the

need for a redistribution. If the numbers were not a major factor, we would not have been concerned about Bellwoods having so many voters and Mr. Wells's riding at that time having 110,000. The whole basis for the start of redistribution is the number situation, taking into consideration community of interest, geography, etc.

We will have input from the House at the conclusion of the speeches. I can speak for myself and suggest that the commission will take the input into consideration very carefully, because we had direction on what to do. Now we have additional direction, and I think it will have an effect. But unless the resolution is changed, we cannot ignore the main thrust of that, which was the difference in numbers and the generally accepted idea that one vote in Bellwoods should have the same effect in the House as one vote in Scarborough North. We cannot forget that either.

Mr. Gregory: I understand that. As I said, that seems to be the only way you can start this sort of exercise. After this is done and you find that your boundary is placed right down the main street of a hamlet of 250 people, putting half the hamlet in one riding and half of the hamlet in the other, I would expect that you might be inclined to bend the rules a little, even if it meant fewer voters or more voters, to accommodate that hamlet. The same thing would probably apply in other ridings.

Despite the fact that the directions you were given had to do with the census and average number of voters, it is not etched in marble, is it? Is intelligent planning not far more important than numbers?

Mr. Bailie: I agree.

Ms. E. J. Smith: Having listened to several of the speeches and having come to this with absolutely no impression a very short time ago, I would echo strongly what Mr. Gregory is saying. Almost all the speeches reflect this attitude. From the point of view of a member you represent a constituency that has a common interest, and when it is split down the middle it makes it extremely difficult. When you say that numbers are the prime consideration, to me that means the shift from north to south, from country to city or from east to west.

The speeches refer almost without exception to what you would call constituency of interests. If you feel the only way you can give more weight to this is for us to amend wording, maybe we should amend the wording, because it seems to me there is almost unanimous consent of the members of the House. Maybe it is something we

should look at, still recognizing the political principle of one vote per person. A member has a different job, which is to represent one area with a common incentive. In any riding there are several areas, but when it goes down the middle, it complicates it.

Mr. McClellan: It is funny you should mention Bellwoods. I want to ask Mr. Bailie whether he has any idea how long it would take the election office to reorganize after the passage of the redistribution bill, particularly with a redistribution that is as major as the one that is in place. How much lead time do you think the commission and the office will need to prepare for the next provincial general election?

10:40 a.m.

Mr. Bailie: I am glad you asked that question, Mr. McClellan, because it is a very important matter. I have had meetings with the senior staff. The election office has estimated that we would need two to three months. You are aware that I am a member of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses. We have had discussions at that commission and, in their opinion, because so many volunteers are involved at the commission level and because associations have to appoint new treasurers, new auditors and so forth—so there is an appointment process—it is estimated they would need more time, such as three or four months. That is a difficult thing to estimate because of the volunteer factor in the appointment of campaign financial officers, treasurers and auditors.

One approach I have in mind is that when we send the draft representation back, I may ask the consideration of the House to have the proclamation of the new Representation Act delayed for a period of four to six months until all these other matters can be put into place.

It is important, as Mr. McClellan obviously realizes, that when redistribution is done and settled, the returning officers in the area have the time to do a redistribution of polling subdivision boundaries. So another redistribution actually takes place, trying to keep in mind community of interest and major arteries, just almost the same guidelines, and a very strict direction from the chief election officer that polls should be between 250 and 350. We have estimated that we can have that completed in two to three months.

New returning officers will be appointed for at least the five additional seats, and we will be at the direction of the cabinet, which has the authority to appoint those returning officers, besides the fact that we have, say, five or six vacancies where we need appointments.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assist in this matter if I can, because I am about the only one here who has actually been through the situation in which a new distribution came in. As it happened, when I had it, the redistribution and the new Election Act came in during the same year and complicated matters considerably.

There is no question it was difficult having a new Election Act and a redistribution at the same time, but we managed. About three months is probably a good estimate of how long it takes to reorganize. I agree that the commission, of which I was formerly a member, would probably need more time than the election office.

The one thing that should be pointed out is that it is not just a question of appointing a few new returning officers to fill the vacancies or to deal with the new electoral districts. When the new Representation Act comes in the former returning officers, having been appointed to the electoral districts as they were under the old Representation Act, are all out. They can be reappointed, of course, but they are all out and you start all over again.

Even where there have been no changes in the boundaries of an electoral district, you start all over again and the cabinet starts all over again to appoint most of the returning officers. Last time most of those who were still available were reappointed, but that is the situation. That is one of the things you have to face when you are dealing with redistribution. You have to get all your returning officers appointed.

Mr. McClellan: As well, you have to have brand-new riding associations created. All the constituency associations also have to be reconstituted. Am I correct?

Mr. Bailie: Yes.

Mr. McClellan: Many are done on the basis of a redistribution of the party membership.

Mr. Bailie: The commission has discussed this matter. It is an all-party commission, and they have made a judgement that if an electoral boundary changes only slightly they will not require the association to be reconstituted. I think that will help all concerned. How they are going to judge whether it is a slight change may be a difficult matter. Though it is not really a matter for concern on my part, we have to be aware of these situations.

One of the biggest difficulties is going to be in Scarborough North. Let us take that one, because it is the largest. In the first draft of our report it was proposed that Scarborough North be divided into two-and-a-half electoral districts. Presuma-

bly, the associations within that electoral district have certain funds on hand. Do you take an arbitrary figure and decide those funds must be divided into five—two fifths to the new association to the east, two fifths to the association that is largely going to take the main centre and one fifth to a North York association—and divide it on that kind of arbitrary basis; or will the individual constituency association decide?

Basically, that money was raised by the people in their individual areas, not from someplace else. It is a matter I cannot decide, but we have to be aware the whole question may take some sorting out. We have already had some discussions with the government House leader, and he would like the commission to come up with a formula.

You can appreciate that it will be pretty difficult for the commission, but the matter must be addressed one way or another. Whether the three parties come up with a decision on how they are going to handle it individually with their constituency associations, or whether it is the decision of the three parties that they would like the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses to give some suggestions or guidelines, that will have to be decided. It is a matter that might be even more difficult than the others we have mentioned.

Mr. McClellan: I am intrigued by the suggestion that if there is only a slight change no reconstitution of a constituency association would be necessary. Have you calculated under the current proposal that we are now debating just how many of the constituency associations would require reconstitution?

Mr. Bailie: I am going to ask Mr. Stewart. He has not been involved in those particular discussions, but he is a little more aware of how many electoral districts are only slightly changed.

Mr. Stewart: It is a somewhat subjective judgement as to what changes are slight and what are not, but approximately 15 electoral districts will remain precisely the same if this proposal goes through. Speaking strictly off the top of my head, I would say there might be perhaps another 30 districts that would be classified as undergoing only slight change. It could be more, but that is my best estimate.

Mr. McClellan: The vast majority are in the major-change category?

Mr. Bailie: Yes, definitely.

Mr. McClellan: I suspect six months is optimistic.

Mr. Gregory: May I follow up on an earlier question regarding the financing? This is going to be rather intriguing in some ridings. I know the proposal for mine is that I lose about one third and then pick up two thirds of another riding; then in another bit I lose part of my riding to another one. I am split three ways.

Mr. Chairman: That is provided your arguments are not persuasive.

Mr. Gregory: Right, but I am trying to get to the financing level. I can appreciate that your commission might well be in a position to come up with recommendations. Since the funding in ridings is divided along party lines, would an actual decision on implementation, using your recommendation as a guideline, not really be up to the party headquarters?

Mr. Bailie: I would certainly agree with that.

Mr. Gregory: You would come up with a suggested formula, and if they wanted to use it they could, but it would not be a requirement that they had to use that formula, would it?

10:50 a.m.

Mr. Bailie: You will remember I said that because there appears to be a dilemma the commission was asked to see if it could come up with some guidelines, and that is as far as we have proceeded. I agree it is a fairly political matter, but the House leader did point out that the funds we are talking about are in large part from the public treasury, and care must be taken. It is pretty much a political matter, and if it is decided that the commission might be of assistance I am sure it will try.

Ms. E. J. Smith: In that regard it then becomes rather interesting, because in each set of, say, three ridings that are changed together, there would be three party riding associations. Then, assuming from what has just been answered here each party might decide to distribute the available money differently. In some cases you might even be discussing available debt.

I am looking, for instance, at my own area of London, where there will be changes within the three ridings: that of the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), that of the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) and my own. I anticipate no problem, because we have tended to have a joint effort anyway, but I can imagine there might be a good deal of difficulty in the Conservative ridings in that same area.

Could we conceivably end up with each one of us reaching his own formula for how we would resolve that?

Mr. Bailie: Yes. Originally it was the opinion of the commission it would be best handled by the individual parties.

Ms. E. J. Smith: It could be quite a free-for-all.

Mr. Bailie: I had some brief consultations with a prominent member of the government party, and this member pointed out to me that in his particular electoral district he was the prime organizer of collecting funds and he had worked very hard at it. If his electoral district changed—and it is scheduled to change at this time quite substantially—he would be very disappointed if the majority of that money did not move to wherever he moved, and I could understand that.

I use that only as an example, because he pointed out that in the next electoral district he knows that fund-raising generally for that same party is handled very definitely on an association basis and the member does not have such a high profile. That is why I think these matters are best addressed by the individual parties.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I agree.

Mr. Chairman: May I ask for clarification: to what were you referring when you spoke of public funds?

Mr. Bailie: I am sure you are aware that, after the election, members who receive at least 15 per cent have the right to submit a request for subsidized funds. In many cases the candidate may already have a surplus on hand and he would still receive the subsidy from the commission. A member may have a \$5,000 surplus and he may receive a cheque from the commission for \$8,300 as a subsidy on his expenses. It now totals \$13,000 in that treasury, the majority of which comes directly from the public treasury.

Mr. Chairman: If the committee does not mind, I might just pursue that a little. Have you been asked to make a recommendation on that very point?

Mr. Bailie: The commission was asked to see whether it could recommend a formula, because some of the funds on hand in many of the associations are from the public treasury, but it was not asked to make a recommendation on only that part of it, if that is what you meant.

Mr. Chairman: Just for discussion, I suggest that you might want to address the issue of public funds, either through being asked or on your own initiative, when you report back. There are many scenarios that come out of the public donation we get as a result of government action, legislative action.

An easy way to do it would be to declare no interest in it prior to the distribution of funds. If you are going to take an interest in it, you will complicate it beyond all doubt. What is the money that is left? Is it what you got from the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses or from Joe Smith down the street?

Mr. Bailie: I would prefer, if you wanted to discuss this at length or ask any questions on it, that you direct them to the chairman of the commission who will be here today. All I wanted to do, in answer to Mr. McClellan's question, was to point out that it is not just the redistribution of polling subdivision boundaries but those three matters. It is not going to be easy to solve.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other questions on this statutory item? Thank you, gentlemen, we will have you back again some day.

On vote 1101, office of the assembly program; item 1, office of the Speaker:

Mr. Epp: I am just wondering whether we should go from the standpoint of having zero-based budgeting and see if the office is necessary or not and, if it is, we can decide how much money he should have. Would the Speaker be in agreement with an approach of that nature since in the past he has recommended zero-base budgeting? I say that partly with tongue-in-cheek, Mr. Speaker, I am sure you are aware of that.

Mr. Speaker: I think, from the experience I have had thus far, the office is certainly necessary. We know we have certain expenditures. I suppose we could take that extra time and go back to zero each time. However, I think it would create a lot of extra work for us so I think we had better just continue the way it is.

Mr. Epp: It would probably be an academic exercise.

Ms. E. J. Smith: Do you need a motion? I am not sure that I—

Mr. Chairman: If you agree that item carries, we carry it.

On item 2, office of the clerk:

Clerk of the House: There is one thing I might speak to on this. The Board of Internal Economy recently approved a program of attachment for clerks from other jurisdictions coming to Ontario to see how we do things. The amount provided is a very small one, only \$3,000.

The reason it is so small is that those clerks coming from jurisdictions other than what might be called developing nations are entirely responsible for their own expenses, not only in coming here but also for living while they are here and

their transportation home. The only item the \$3,000 is intended to cover is if someone comes from a nation which might be described as a developing nation and then we make a contribution to their living expenses while they are here. That is all.

11 a.m.

As some of the members may remember, before the program was formally started we had a clerk come from the Parliament of South Australia, a few years ago I guess it would be. He and his jurisdiction felt that as a state clerk he would learn more from a provincial legislature than he would from the federal one. He wrote me afterwards and intimated he learned a great deal here and that as a result certain innovations had been made in their system. He would have liked very much to stay longer but just when he was getting deeply into things here an election was called in his jurisdiction, so he had to hurry home.

We have been soliciting some jurisdictions to see if they would like to come. We had an intimation from Westminster that they were quite keen on sending someone over. Of course, if that occurs, they will come entirely at their own expense.

They would like to see, first, how a provincial parliament works; and second, they feel that perhaps they can learn something from us.

Mr. Epp: How long has it been going on?

Clerk of the House: We really do not have it started yet; it is a new program. We had this one chap who wrote to me from South Australia and asked if he could come and visit, entirely at his expense. He came and even sat at the table, as you may remember.

Following that experience, we decided to inaugurate this program and when we asked the Board of Internal Economy for approval they were quite enthusiastic.

Mr. Epp: To what extent is this prevalent in other jurisdictions?

Clerk of the House: They have one in the United Kingdom. I am not sure what other jurisdictions there are.

Mr. Epp: Is it done on a federal basis in Canada?

Clerk of the House: Yes, I believe so.

Ms. E. J. Smith: On another subject, unless someone wants further questions on that, I note there is a change and a saving on this one; it is \$22,000 less. I just wondered whether this represents an actual decrease or whether something has been moved to another area?

Mr. Chairman: Does someone have the answer on that?

Ms. E. J. Smith: Is that the result of a transfer or a decrease?

Clerk of the House: There is \$22,600 less asked for this year than last. We had an unclassified position and by attrition it—

Ms. E. J. Smith: So it is a decrease?

Clerk of the House: Yes.

Mr. Epp: Could you tell us about your accommodation facilities and so forth. There have been some changes and some plans. I did not know whether this was the appropriate time to get into that, but do you have some projections on that, on your present plans?

Clerk of the House: With respect to the main office, there is no real change except that we are picking up the much-needed room 111 the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) indicated he is quite prepared to let us have.

Mr. Gregory: It was not mine to give, sir.

Mr. Epp: Is that the one where we have our—

Mr. Gregory: That is the little office next to your former caucus meeting room.

Clerk of the House: That small room, yes. The only other thing is that the committee clerks are at present in the Whitney Block. They are not all together, unfortunately, and the offices they have were wanted for members' offices. It worked out very well for everybody concerned. They are moving over to the fourth floor of this building in the northeast wing.

Mr. Epp: You are going to take quite a bit of space over in the north—

Clerk of the House: They will be in a straight row down the northeast wing and one utility room across the hall. They will finally be all together in this building, where they will be more accessible to the committees.

Mr. Epp: You will then have space downstairs, the office you usually had, one additional office you are picking up, plus the fourth floor of the north wing.

Clerk of the House: Northeast wing.

Mr. Fleming: Fourth floor, east wing.

Clerk of the House: Up in the northeast corner.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other questions on this item?

Clerk of the House: That will accommodate us quite well.

Mr. Epp: You have some offices up there on the fourth floor.

Clerk of the House: Then there are the other clerks. They will be all together over in the northeast wing.

Item 2 agreed to.

On item 3, Hansard:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Brannan, maybe you would wish to come up in case there are questions.

Who has the first question?

Mr. McClellan: I have a question. How is your move coming?

Mr. Brannan: We have been told we may be moving to the southeast corner of this building on the fourth floor. We have had a look at that space. It is comparable in area and so on with our existing quarters. That is as far as I have gone with it.

I have had a quick look at it and I think we can accommodate everybody up there. We have not really done any work because I believe that space is still occupied by somebody else at this point.

Mr. McClellan: Do you have an understanding with respect to schedules and timetables?

Mr. Brannan: Not really. The original memo I received said it was going to be done within the next six months.

Mr. Gregory: I well remember being situated in the whip's office, which is enjoyed by Mrs. Smith at the present time, and hearing the large machine you have upstairs. I thought it was only a matter of days until it came through. Mrs. Smith has that worry now. Maybe she does not know about it. I should tell her. Is it a printing press?

Mr. Brannan: Yes. We do not have the machine that gave you all the trouble any more.

Mr. Gregory: That is good.

Mr. Brannan: That was an offset duplicating press and we do not have that any more. We have gone to a Xerox photocopying machine, which is relatively silent and vibration free.

Mr. Gregory: I am glad to hear that. You cannot believe the number of hours of terror I had when I heard that thing going.

I was going to ask, if you still had it—which is a redundant question—is the fourth floor strong enough to support it?

Mr. Brannan: I have no idea, but I think the whole building is pretty strong.

Mr. Gregory: With the move toward electronic Hansard that has been talked about, what will that do as far as your staff on the floor of the House are concerned, the girls who pick up the crude remarks of New Democratic members?

Mr. Brannan: I do not think it is going to make any difference to us in that respect at all. The only thing that will be happening, I understand, is that our console operators will have some control over the camera direction during the times when the system is on automatic control, which probably will not be during question period or anything like that. It will only be during periods of relatively quiet speech, motions, debate and that sort of thing.

Mr. Gregory: When the new system goes into play, is there any thought of putting in any hidden microphones, such as they used to have, to pick up little remarks that got us into so much trouble a while back?

11:10 a.m.

Mr. Brannan: No; as a matter of fact, I hope that has gone forever because we have moved away from trying to pick up as many interjections as we used to try to pick up. We have gone to a much more logical operation in company with most other Hansards across the country and around the world. It seems to be working very well.

The interjectionists' role has been reduced somewhat but we are still very glad of them on occasions when the sound system failed, as it did one day last week. I think they are worth their weight in gold when it comes to the crunch.

Mr. Gregory: It is far better than the so-called secret tape concept. Frank Drea used to complain that all his raceway tips were being heard by the opposition.

Mr. Brannan: I do not know whether that was true or not. We never made any money out of them. I think that was rather exaggerated. I hope it was rather exaggerated. I know the thing was very sensitive, but at times when it was brought into use, which was when there was a fair amount of commotion in the House, it was pretty hard to pick out anything except the very loud shouted interjection.

Mr. Gregory: "Some honourable members: 'Oh, oh.'" That sort of thing.

Mr. Brannan: That is right.

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Smith, have you any worries at all in that presentation?

Ms. E. J. Smith: They have moved the press out so I was not even aware of my imminent danger.

Mr. Chairman: Are there other questions?
Item 3, agreed to.

Mr. Brannan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Items 4 and 5 agreed to.

On item 6, Members' support services:

Ms. E. J. Smith: I assume the constituency office savings reflects up into here because they have all gone into our global budget. I just make that comment because they do tie together. There is the \$3 million in savings down here and constituency staff is now included in our global budget which shows up here.

Mr. Chairman: Could we get the answer to that question on Hansard? Hansard does not catch that.

Ms. Robinson: That is correct. There is a reduction in the constituency office program because we have in fact transferred the money over and put the global allowance under the members' support services item.

Ms. E. J. Smith: Thank you.

Mr. Gregory: I am not too clear on that item. The new global budgeting we have per member, it appears to me, radically changes the situation regarding constituency secretaries. We really do not have the right any more, as members, to fluctuate constituency salaries the same way. Is that correct?

In other words, if you hire a constituency secretary you can pay up to a certain amount and then I understand you can either increase that after three months or six months bringing it to a more realistic figure. Any further increases are based on the same criteria as staff here at Queen's Park.

Ms. Schoenberger: Correct. The board has approved that the caucuses adopt the same policy as in the Legislative Assembly whereby an employee is entitled to only one so-called merit increment in a year, provided the employee is not yet at the ceiling of that salary classification. Aside from that, every employee is entitled to the annual economic increment. That is a change.

Ms. E. J. Smith: In the first place, it does not take away the ability to have part-time people and to use one's money in any way one pleases in that regard. I think this was a result of putting our constituency people on to benefits; from a bookkeeping point of view of getting them into the general benefits program they had to be regularized. This was the reason for the regularization. It came along with putting them into the benefits program.

Mr. Gregory: What does it do to the member's flexibility in changing constituency staff? It is not that I have plans along that line, but under the past program a member was fairly free to change his constituency secretaries any time he wanted. Is that a problem?

Ms. E. J. Smith: My understanding is it does not affect that at all. They are still our employees from that point of view. If your secretary wanted to sue you for dismissal she would be suing you and not the government. Yours is an individual contract with your secretary.

Mr. Gregory: Is that so? Is that correct?

Ms. E. J. Smith: That is my understanding.

Ms. Schoenberger: Yes, that is correct. I would advise any member contemplating such a move to phone my office to find out what the legal termination period should be, so that we give you the correct advice and you do not end up in trouble.

Mr. Gregory: I am not thinking about it. I do not want that word to get back to her.

Ms. Schoenberger: I am just saying it has happened. The constituency staff is then free to sue the member for wrongful dismissal—

Mr. Gregory: Oh, how marvellous.

Ms. Schoenberger: —if no appropriate notice has been given.

Mr. Gregory: By that move we put ourselves in a position where we could be open to a suit for wrongful dismissal.

Ms. Schoenberger: You always were.

Ms. E. J. Smith: My point was not that they could suddenly sue. My point was that they still remain your personal employee rather than the government's.

Mr. Gregory: You can have part-time help on an hourly rate, I assume?

Ms. E. J. Smith: That is still available.

Ms. Schoenberger: As long as you have the money.

Mr. Gregory: Right.

Mr. Speaker: This is not in exactly the same vein, but one of the reasons this has increased to such an extent is that the Board of Internal Economy decided this amount would include payments to all legislative assistants for all members, all ministers, which were paid, I believe, through the ministry previously.

Mr. Chairman: Any other questions on this item?

Item 6 agreed to.

On item 7: caucus support services.

Ms. E. J. Smith: This figure was negotiated and very much agreed upon. It is a brand new figure, I think. I would recommend we accept it because it was agreed upon by the three parties and brought to the Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Chairman: Any discussion?

Mr. Gregory: Is this the memory typewriters, the new electronic gadgets we are getting in the members' offices? That is not it? Tell me when I get to it.

Mr. Fleming: That was under sessional requirements.

Mr. Gregory: I missed it.

Ms. E. J. Smith: Office automation, item 4. Do you want to go back?

Mr. Gregory: All I wanted was an update on where we are on that. I think somebody said there would be 10 delivered per month?

Mr. Speaker: Maybe Mr. Mitchinson could answer that.

Mr. Mitchinson: The board approved in October an implementation schedule which would bring the whole system into all members' offices and ancillary offices in the assembly by the end of December, 1986. Right now we are in the process of setting up our training centre in the basement area of the north wing. We are getting the entire building cabled to accommodate it. We are also bringing in the central processing units. Members will begin to come on stream, beginning March 1, at the rate of 10 per month.

11:20 a.m.

Mr. Gregory: Could I then ask for some opinion? I do not want to get too far from the subject, but I think it is very dear to members' hearts. Membership in committees is distributed in accordance with the number of members from each party. With 10 a month, can I assume they will be distributed to members in much the same fashion?

Mr. Mitchinson: That was the specific approval given by the Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Gregory: When did that happen? I have not missed any meetings.

Mr. Mitchinson: When the project was approved there were several items, and that was one of them, on which it was agreed it would be done in proportion to the seating distribution in the House.

Mr. Gregory: I can assume that whenever this starts Progressive Conservatives will get four of them.

Mr. Mitchinson: It will be four-four-two.

Ms. E. J. Smith: And you pick your own way of distributing.

Mr. Gregory: Does the whip have any authority over who gets the first one? I would like

to know I have some kind of control over who gets them.

Mr. Chairman: The whip gets the first one.

Mr. Mitchinson: The only difference is with respect to the Liberal caucus. We have never involved offsite members' offices in our pilot. Beginning March 1, we are going to do a short-term pilot with a minister's office and a parliamentary assistant's office, both within the Queen's Park complex and also perhaps up on St. Clair Avenue or down at the Attorney General's office. We will try to iron out any associated problems we are unaware of before we extend that. Otherwise, we will be looking to the whip.

Ms. E. J. Smith: That information should go to the caucuses, because I think we brought together our timetable without that information.

Mr. Mitchinson: Again, that was one of the implementation decisions the board made, but we can deal with that.

Mr. Gregory: Is the Whitney Block a part of that problem?

Mr. Mitchinson: No. The Whitney Block is considered to be the legislative building.

Mr. Gregory: In other words, four of my members in the Whitney Block could be eligible.

Mr. Mitchinson: Absolutely. It only affects the cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants.

Mr. Epp: May I ask Mr. Mitchinson a question? It would be helpful from our standpoint if you were to draft a statement which we could circulate to the members to let them know what is going on with respect to the Datapoint and so forth. There are different people who have been involved in this and I think some people have a different perception to that of others of exactly what is happening.

Since you are very familiar with it, I wonder whether you would draft a statement which could be used by all three caucuses to tell them exactly what is going on, what the timetable is, exactly what the Datapoint is going to do for them and so forth. We have a number of new members. I was in the former caucus and so were most of the members here, but the new members are not fully familiar with what is happening. If you could do that it would be helpful.

Mr. Mitchinson: We can certainly pull something together, recognizing that it is a very complex and involved program. We have been working right from the beginning of this project with a representative from each caucus on a working team. In addition to what I will do for

you, I suggest you consult with Mrs. Audrey Faux, who has been involved right from the start. She can give you a pretty good outline of how it affects your caucus.

Mr. Epp: The other thing that might be helpful is if you can make yourself available to the caucuses if they have questions.

Mr. Mitchinson: I would be pleased to do that at any time.

Mr. Epp: You could make it a uniform presentation which I think is always helpful.

Mr. Mitchinson: I think that might be more constructive than my trying to put together a one-page thing on a very complicated issue.

Mr. Epp: If you could put a few of the basic things together on paper and hand it out, and then make yourself available to the caucuses, it would be helpful. I cannot speak on behalf of the others, but I know we would like to have you in our caucus to answer those questions.

Mr. Mitchinson: By all means.

Mr. Gregory: When do the first 10 come on?

Mr. Mitchinson: The first 10 come on at the beginning of March 1986.

Mr. Gregory: Would it be helpful if perhaps each caucus sent you a priority list?

Mr. Mitchinson: Yes. I think as far as the logistics are concerned, up to this point we have been working with the caucus representatives on our working committee. Maybe I can indicate to them that now is the time they should be contacting their whips and getting an outline of the implementation plan.

Mr. Gregory: Could you tell us who the caucus representative is from my caucus?

Mr. Mitchinson: Barbara Cowieson; Barbara Cowieson, Marcia Boyd and Audrey Faux have been working with this.

Mr. McClellan: I do not really have any questions for Mr. Mitchinson. I think I am reasonably up to date on how the automation project is proceeding, but at the Board of Internal Economy I have been raising a concern about jurisdictional problems. Maybe this is an appropriate time at least to restate a concern I have in the light of Mr. Mitchinson's report about the phasing in of the office automation project starting in March.

We have just heard from Mr. Brannan, who indicated that he will not be moving for another six months. I want to state again the concern I have about split jurisdiction around here. Our caucus is involved in four separate projects. One of the projects is under the rubric of move. Our

leader is moving from the north wing to the third floor. I am moving from the second floor to where Mr. Brannan is, if Mr. Brannan can move into the fourth floor in the east wing. When I move to the third floor, the Conservatives are moving into the area where I am. That is the first project.

Mr. Gregory: Whenever Mr. Stone is moving.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Stone is moving out. Mr. Rae is moving into Mr. Stone's complex. I am moving into the Hansard complex and the Conservative leader is moving into my complex. None of the office automation can happen for me until all these dominoes take effect. That is just one project I am talking about, the move.

The second project is the office automation project, which involves extensive rewiring and establishing dedicated plugs for the computers.

The third project involves the renovation of the north wing to rationalize the office space, which is totally loony. Most of the space is a central hall with huge corridors that eat up probably somewhere between 50 and 60 per cent of the available space. It is totally dysfunctional wasted space. That has to be rationalized.

Our fourth project has to do with an asbestos hazard in the north wing.

There are different actors dealing with each of these four projects. Everybody is being very co-operative at the staff level; we could not ask for better co-operation. The fact remains that there are four separate projects involving the office of administration and the Ministry of Government Services. There appear to be three different contractors involved, one for asbestos, one for the renovation and one for the installation of the cables. A fourth set of actors is involved with respect to the moves.

It is going to be very difficult to arrange an integrated, co-ordinated set of activities that does not involve our offices being ripped up three times. Without any difficulty, I can foresee our offices being ripped up three times.

I do not want to open this up, but we are going to have to deal with it collectively. When I have been expressing my concerns to the Board of Internal Economy they have been abstract. I am trying to express in more specific terms what some of our worries are.

I do not want the office automation project held up, but computers cannot be installed until we know where our members' offices are going to be and what the members' offices are going to look like. We cannot move and we cannot install the computers until we understand what the

timetable of the moves is. We have to come to grips with the asbestos problem and with the renovation problem. We are going to have to put our minds to the question of split jurisdiction around here and the number of people who are involved with renovation or changing walls, wires or equipment. End of the speech.

Mr. Speaker: I have a comment on that. This has been under discussion in the Board of Internal Economy. I think that discussion will continue and we hope some solution will be reached very shortly.

11:30 a.m.

In regard to your question concerning the timing for the automation in the offices and the moves, I wonder whether Mr. Mitchinson could make any comment as to whether it is possible to get the wires in the right direction.

Mr. Mitchinson: First, I have just one comment on what Mr. McClellan mentioned about the Hansard move. It is not six months from now. It was anytime within a six-month period starting when the first moves were made. So its impact is not as dramatic as you might have thought.

The cabling for the Datapoint system installation is going ahead right now and will be done on a piecemeal basis. The core will be done now so that we will get the cables to the areas within the building where we know the members' offices are going to be located. Once the individual offices have been designed and we know where the terminals are to go, the contractors will be brought back in to pull the cable into the specific location.

You are right; there is a lot of co-ordination that needs to be done. At this stage of the game we are confident the members' office moves can be done without altering the implementation schedule for the members' office automation project. I am hopeful that will continue, but up to this point we are not concerned about an impact there.

Mr. Gregory: I am surprised by the six-month comment. I think you have explained it partially. However, if we are even talking three months or even two months, we are talking about a serious change in the direction we have been going because, as Mr. Fleming and most others in the room will know, we have been doing a flying tap dance for a while shuffling people around. It has been quite interesting.

One of the very key moves in that whole picture is the move of the New Democratic Party members from the second floor. As a matter of

fact, we are talking about that move into the second-floor quarters taking place with the election of our new leader. I know you are trying hard to say, "to hell with you, Gregory."

Mr. McClellan: No, I am anxious to move; but I would like to have someplace to go.

Mr. Gregory: Part of the office space where Mr. McClellan is was to be used by our House leader; it is all part of a calculated move around. How quickly can we get Mr. Brannan out? That is what it seems to revolve around.

Mr. Fleming: The issue is how quickly can we move the people in the cabinet office on the fourth floor east into other offices, principally in the Whitney Block. We have a slight problem there in that we have to have the offices in the Whitney Block ready for them to move into, and those are the offices the committee clerks occupy at the moment. The domino effect is definitely ruling.

All I can say on the project in general is that we feel it is on time. We feel it is extremely complicated and we are hoping, with the continued co-operation of the Ministry of Government Services, that we will be able to maintain these schedules. As I keep pointing out to our people, this is not a bureaucratic function. It is an action plan and we have to do whatever we can immediately; and that is a problem in itself. As soon as a room becomes vacant it has to be recarpeted, if necessary, repainted, etc.

I am reasonably certain we are on time, although I am a bit concerned that the work, possibly in the Whitney Block, is not proceeding as quickly as it might, particularly in the area that the Progressive Conservative members are moving into. There are 21 PC members moving into the Whitney Block.

Mr. Gregory: If I may, that is right on schedule. The Ministry of Government Services has been excellent, and our people were provided with space. There is another great move scheduled for November 28. They were right on time for the first nine that went over there. The renovations were handled within a week without any interruptions. I am quite happy with that. We are quite prepared to move our people from both the north and east wings of the fourth floor as soon as we can do our double tandem sidestep with our leader. There is no holdup there. I would hate to think there is one little chink in that armour with Hansard that would—

Mr. Fleming: We do not feel so. At the moment, we think it is on schedule.

Mr. Gregory: What is scheduled? That is what I would like to know. When are we talking about?

Mr. Fleming: Specifically, once we can move your members from the fourth floor east we can move the committee clerks there. As soon as they move in we can move the cabinet people from the fourth floor east to the Whitney Block and the Hansard people can go to the fourth floor east.

Mr. Gregory: Do we have three members on the fourth floor east?

Interjection.

Mr. Gregory: I am informed we have three on the fourth floor east and four on the fourth floor of the main building. The three on the fourth floor east are the key. You want them out of there.

Mr. Fleming: We need to have the people on the fourth floor east out as soon as possible. We already are attempting to renovate an office for the human resources section on the fourth floor east as fast as possible so that Ellen Schoenberger and her group can move out of the Whitney Block. That is a priority. We are literally tracking this hourly.

Mr. Gregory: Let us we get back to Hansard. It seems to be a real chink in the armour.

Mr. Fleming: The problem with Hansard is that we have to move out the whole fourth floor southeast section where the cabinet office is. Some of those people are going downstairs, but some are also going to the Whitney Block and we have to clear the space in the Whitney Block. In other words, the committee clerks have to leave the Whitney Block so the cabinet people can move there. For them to move in, your people have to move out of the offices on the fourth floor east.

Mr. Chairman: It is all very complicated.

Ms. E. J. Smith: If I am hearing it right, it seems to me that things are going as planned and very well. The unfortunate thing is that the gentleman from Hansard—I forget his name for the moment—

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Brannan.

Ms. E. J. Smith: —used the term “six months.” What we need to do is put “within six months” and say things seem to be going well.

Mr. Fleming: I was about to say that at the moment they are.

Mr. Gregory: Could we say that the Hansard people will move in a month or six weeks?

Ms. E. J. Smith: They will move when the space is ready.

Mr. Gregory: I know that. Is it conceivable they could move that soon?

Mr. Fleming: That is be our hope. In fact, it could be sooner, although bear in mind that we have to move a good deal of wiring up to the fourth floor because there is a huge installation behind the chamber on the third floor and in the area where Mr. McClellan is going.

Mr. Chairman: Shall caucus support services carry?

Mr. McClellan: Not quite. There is one potential fly in the ointment, and that is the north wing; that we know we will have a better second floor. Nothing is happening there. I will have a better idea in about five days whether things are proceeding appropriately, but I am red-flagging our concern. We want an integrated and co-ordinated move with renovation, installation and cleanup that involves all our office space and all our work places. I express the optimistic hope that we will be able to accomplish that, but the flag has been raised.

Item 7 agreed to.

On item 8, administration:

11:40 a.m.

Mr. Fleming: Under administration, there is actually a reduction in the 1985-86 estimates from those for 1984-85. It is a 2.8 per cent decrease. The reason for this decrease centres on the fact that we have reduced an item of about \$50,000 for computer software that had to be acquired last year, and other equipment relating to computers. In addition, in the legislative dining room and food services section we have been able to reduce by a total of about \$69,000. We think we succeeded in getting a very good chef. The other senior chef, who had been carrying on for a while, left to go to another job. There was a total of \$69,000, including reducing some of our food purchasing costs.

On the other hand, built into the figures are the annual salary increments for all areas included in the administrative department. Perhaps I could call on Ms. Schoenberger. She is installing a sophisticated computer system in the human resources section to track personnel and personnel files that will amount to \$40,000. That is the only new amount of any significance in our estimates.

Ms. Schoenberger: I should explain that my office has been operating under pretty medieval conditions and I am almost embarrassed about it. There are three clerks working with me. Other personnel offices that deal with the number of staff and work force that we have to administer

have between eight and 10 members of staff and I am still operating with four. It is a question of either throwing more clerks into the operation or buying a system that allows us to computerize the numerous lists we have to keep for salaries, schedules, classification schedules, overviews on people's training and position lists, etc. The list goes on and on.

I am embarrassed when I get calls from ministries or elsewhere that say: "Here is the social insurance number of an employee. Can you look up such and such for me?" I know they expect me to have a computer and I do not have one. You look up everything by SIN number nowadays.

It is high time we became more automated. We are still a paper-oriented office and it is becoming very cumbersome. For example, attendance recording takes one clerk about one quarter of her total time throughout the year. That is just to collect attendance and absenteeism throughout the Legislative Assembly. It is ridiculous that it is done by manual addition and subtraction. The system will greatly enhance our efficiency and save us from having to add more clerks.

Mr. Epp: Can you elaborate on the system you are getting?

Ms. Schoenberger: We are in the middle of receiving tenders. Bids have gone out to the market. I think we have approached about 30 suppliers through the purchasing office. The deadline for submissions is mid-November. By the end of next week we should be receiving bids, evaluating them and making our choices.

Mr. Epp: Have you hired consultants? Where is the expertise to get the kind of system—

Ms. Schoenberger: Most of it is in-house through the purchasing officer and the recent acquisition of our manager of legislative information systems, Tom Bentley, who is sitting near the door. He is helping us as well. He has had a lot of experience with office automation systems.

Mr. Epp: What functions will the new computer perform?

Ms. Schoenberger: It will automate all the functions we now are performing on paper. My office consists of thousands of files and lists that need updating at least monthly; that is when employees change. The lists change all the time. We also administer the benefits for all the members, caucus staff and employees of the assembly. We are dealing with a work force of about 700. At the moment, everything is on paper and we have a very antiquated mag card

system for which we hardly find any operators when the secretary is sick or on vacation. It takes a long time to update the lists.

Mr. Epp: Approximately what is the new system going to cost? I know you are getting tenders.

Ms. Schoenberger: We do not know yet.

Mr. Epp: Are we talking about \$500,000? Are we talking about \$1 million?

Ms. Schoenberger: No; \$40,000 is our preliminary estimate. It will consist of about four and eventually five work stations, a printer, and that is about it. The work stations will be able to network amongst each other. It is more than word processing. It will have data spreadsheets, etc., so we can do calculations. That is very important when salaries change or when we get the economic increment for an across-the-board change. We now have to do it manually. This system will save us weeks of work.

Mr. Epp: Will you have all the hardware upstairs in that office or will it be located in—

Ms. Schoenberger: It will be in my new office.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I had never really understood the attendance you refer to. I would be interested in having you explain who you keep attendance on and for what purpose.

Ms. Schoenberger: For the Office of the Assembly the vacation allowance is carefully prescribed as to how many days of vacation each person gets. It depends on length of service and classification. Under our health system, six days of sick leave are granted to us. Once they are exhausted, we go on what is called "short-term disability."

Every time a person is sick it has to be recorded so that we know when the six days are up and a person is to go on 75 per cent salary. Every time a person is on vacation it has to be recorded so we know when the vacation allowance is exhausted. It is even worse for people on contract because they get a day and a quarter per month attendance credits; we have to be very careful in recording that. We are not involved in recording caucus attendance. This is purely for employees of the assembly. The same system is followed as in the government.

Ms. E. J. Smith: This has nothing to do with any of our employees.

Ms. Schoenberger: You are not involved. It is the Office of the Assembly. At the beginning of the year they get their vacation bank and their sickness bank.

Ms. E. J. Smith: Okay; I have it.

Ms. Schoenberger: They get updates to see where they stand.

Mr. Epp: Talking about attendance at committees, what about members who attend committees when the Legislature is not sitting?

Ms. Schoenberger: It is totally separate. We have nothing to do with that. I believe the clerks of the committees keep the records.

Mr. Epp: It is all handled by the Office of the Clerk.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other questions on that item? What is the dining room under?

Mr. Fleming: The dining room is under the administration section.

Mr. Chairman: What is the financial situation of the dining room now that the prices have gone up?

Ms. Schoenberger: It is still in a loss situation and it will never be any different since the cost of staff salaries is higher than our revenues. That is a very simplistic answer, but it is a fact. We are still in a 59 per cent loss situation. We have decreased the loss somewhat through more prudent management where we can. Our largest cost is staff salaries and that will not change.

Mr. Chairman: Your prices are not exactly a bargain.

Ms. Schoenberger: That is true, but they are still a pretty good deal overall. I eat around town quite a bit.

Mr. Chairman: Did the generosity of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) on the retail sales tax help at all?

Ms. Schoenberger: It has no effect because we sell very few items for less than a dollar.

11:50 a.m.

Ms. E. J. Smith: A political statement.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps Ms. Smith would enlist this kind of help to persuade the Treasurer.

Ms. E. J. Smith: It only helps the Treasurer. It does not help our deficit because it goes directly from the cash register to the Treasurer.

Mr. Morin: Last night I had some chicken, \$4.50; vegetables, 60 cents. Why not make one price for the whole thing?

Ms. Schoenberger: Members have shown so many different tastes that it is hard to accommodate them. If you serve two basic vegetables automatically with each meal, people say: "I do not like those two vegetables. I would rather have such and such." You end up bringing them separate vegetables. So it was decided that the

vegetables should always be served separately. However, if there is a consensus among members that they would rather have the vegetables chosen for them, we can probably look at that.

Mr. Gregory: The present situation goes back five or six years. Before that it was done by a contractor. At that time we had a deficit, but I do not think it ran at anything like the deficit we have now. It has been a rather interesting experiment to have the government running the restaurant, classifying the waitresses as civil servants and paying them a minimum wage, which is far higher than any waitress in Toronto or North America makes.

Ms. Schoenberger said all the profits go to paying salaries. In other words, we pay more in salaries than we take in. I find that incredible. Maybe it is something that should be discussed at the Board of Internal Economy. Maybe we should take a second look at this. This is an experiment that has cost us a lot of money.

With the greatest respect, the quality of food is not that great. I am not a fussy eater, but when I go down to the restaurant and have a choice of two casseroles and one fish dish and that is it, I find that quite incredible. Let us get back to reality and pay staff comparable rates. We will talk about that at the Board of Internal Economy too.

Could we have a look at this and do a restudy of the thing; or have we locked ourselves in to the point where we now have 24 new civil servants we cannot get rid of?

Mr. Speaker: As chairman of Board of Internal Economy I cannot say we will do it before Christmas because of the work load, but I certainly see no reason why we cannot do it early in the new year.

Ms. Schoenberger: As far as the staff is concerned, we are not locked in with all of them. In the past few years we have hired a lot of staff on contract. There are only 16 who are so-called civil servants.

Mr. Epp: I have been a member now for eight years, and I remember coming here and hearing a great many complaints about what was going on in the dining room. At that time we felt that for the money we were paying the service was very short. I remember a colleague of mine having extreme difficulty in getting bacon and eggs for lunch. He would say, "You have eggs?" "Yes, we have eggs." "You have bacon?" "Yes, we have bacon." "You have a plate and cutlery?" "Yes." "But you cannot give me bacon and eggs for lunch?" They could only do it until about 11

o'clock, and then all of a sudden they could not do it after 11 o'clock or something of that nature.

All those things have changed. I know the complaints I used to hear with respect to the dining room have just about dissipated. There are not very many as opposed to what we used to hear when we had private caterers. I want to draw that to the attention of committee members. I think things have really improved. You can always find problems; I know I have encountered some, but they are minor in comparison to what I used to hear from my colleagues and what I used to encounter personally.

I think the staff is to be complimented. I know we are paying more, but on the other hand, if we want to go back to where we were we are going to encounter hundreds and hundreds of complaints more than we have now.

Mr. McClellan: I agree completely. We obviously do not have an ideal facility in the dining room. However, we have made some real progress since I was first elected 10 years ago. I have absolutely no intention of supporting any move to reduce our staff salaries to the level of minimum wages. One of the best things we have done down there is to upgrade the salaries and wages of our employees—and they are our employees—so they can earn a decent living. I will strenuously oppose any attempts to reduce them to the status of minimum wage earners.

Mr. Gregory: That explanation does not surprise me at all. The point I was making was not that we go back to the situation we had before, because I too was here 10 years ago and I recognize there were some complaints. In retrospect, I can look back and say that maybe those complaints were not so bad.

Considering the amount of deficit we have now—and nobody has even told me what it is, but I can tell you it is a hell of a lot more than it used to be—if we poured as much money into the old system as we do into this one we would have much better quality than we do now.

I can recall the same complaints I have heard mentioned. I was probably one of those who was complaining. I am just pointing out that we have perhaps slightly better service in the opinion of some people, but we are paying a healthy price for it. I am thinking in terms of fiscal responsibility. The same amount of money spent would certainly upgrade the service we are getting.

Mr. Chairman: I made a point at the start that I feel the prices are high when you consider—a 59 per cent loss, did you say?

Ms. Schoenberger: That is right.

Mr. Chairman: Nobody in the private sector could come within miles of operating in that fashion. When you find out about the 59 per cent loss and the prices it is an expensive meal, regardless of whether you eat outside or you do not. I will make that comment subject to challenge.

On behalf of the New Democratic Party and Conservative Party caucuses—and I do not know who looks after it—I want to say that in the west lobby of the Legislature, the telephone in the library section has not been working for a week. Some of us still have the terrible habit of smoking, and there is one ashtray in that whole back room. Quite often you cannot get into that back room; it is locked. I wonder who looks after that and if that service can be improved.

Mr. Fleming: The Sergeant at Arms looks after it.

Mr. Epp: What room are you talking about?

Mr. Chairman: The one you do not have now.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I do not know where he is referring to either.

Mr. Chairman: The west lobby.

Ms. E. J. Smith: On the first floor?

Mr. Fleming: We will check into it.

Item 8 agreed to.

12 noon

Ms. E. J. Smith: Mr. Chairman, can we deal with item 9 before we break? It ties in with the rest and kind of winds up this part of it.

Interjection.

Ms. E. J. Smith: At least item 9, I was going to say. I do not mean to stop, but I saw you looking at the clock.

Mr. Chairman: The Speaker has a commitment.

Mr. Epp: As far as I am concerned, if everyone else would be amenable, we might be able to finish before we go for lunch rather than come back for half an hour after lunch. I am throwing that out as a suggestion. There may be good opposition to it, but we could finish in the next 15 or 20 minutes without busting ourselves.

Mr. Speaker: The chairman just mentioned that I had something else to do. I will be entertaining the pages upstairs, but I do not see why we cannot continue for another half an hour if you wish.

Mr. Chairman: It is fine with me. I want to raise one point. We have nobody here, I think I am correct in saying, from the Commission on

Election Contributions and Expenses. We could do two things. We have to have the election office back for probably about an hour. The election office is not on here through an error. Can we agree to deal with that statutory item then?

Mr. McClellan: Do you mean at two o'clock?

Mr. Chairman: No, it will have to be another day. Can we hold that one over? Okay. So we have two to go here.

On item 9, constituency offices:

Mr. Speaker: The only thing I might say is that there is quite a reduction because the global amount set out for the staff of the constituency offices has been taken out of this and put into another vote. I believe this covers mainly the rental of the space, the equipment and telephone. I believe that is all this covers now.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I wish to make a comment in passing, and not to raise it for great discussion now. It has to do with the future agenda of the Board of Internal Economy.

At least within our membership we have had some requests for flexibility between items 6 and 9 in so far as some of the members seem to feel that with the greater number of staff available and so on, the office allowance in the constituency area perhaps could be looked at. That is something we could look at, because it can be done within the existing budget of our global allowance.

I know some of our members would like that raised at the Board of Internal Economy, that some of what is now named specifically for staff might be considered as something we could put over into office space in the constituency area. I simply flag that, as Mr. McClellan has, as something I would like to bring up at some future Board of Internal Economy meeting.

Mr. McClellan: I agree there is a problem. I do not think the solution is to mix the salary account and the operating expenses account. We have to look at the reality that with the increase in the members' staff complement many of us are finding (a) that the size of our offices is inadequate and (b) that we cannot afford market rents, particularly in the larger urban areas. We are not in business to compete with the going rates, and on the street in my constituency, for example, we are not even close.

We should also look at the quaint and archaic way in which we furnish and equip our offices. I do not want to own any more typewriters, thank you very much. We have the craziest system that could be possibly devised to provide equipment.

I am raising this here because I have been told by my caucus to raise it here. The board is going to have to take a look at some of these matters.

Mr. Speaker: So your suggestion is that they should be furnished in the same way as the offices here under similar conditions?

Mr. McClellan: I think that is something we have to look at. I do not think the kind of rental or lease-purchase arrangements we have, which result in the members owning desks, typewriters, Xerox machines and everything under the sun, makes a whole lot of sense. I really do not.

Mr. Gregory: My concern is along the line of Ms. Smith's, but perhaps a touch different. It is something I did bring up in previous meetings of the Board of Internal Economy, and that is some form of rent differential. I just got my new offer to lease, as a matter of fact it is a little overdue, but my rent has gone up from \$17.50 per square foot to \$21 per square foot.

I am fortunate in that I do not require a lot of space. I have just over 400 feet or something like that. I cannot afford to have additional staff. I have the money to pay their salaries, but I have no place to put them—

Ms. E. J. Smith: Or a typewriter for them to type on.

Mr. Gregory: Yes. In the Mississauga area the market rents are quite out of line with the budget I have. It seems to me we should be having a look at the allowance member by member, somewhat in accordance with the market rents in the area each comes from. Mr. Chairman, I do not know where you are from—Pumpkin Corners, up there?—but the rents up there are probably not \$21 per square foot. I do not think they would be in many communities. They probably are in Toronto, maybe where Herb—

Mr. Epp: I paid \$6.50—

Mr. Gregory: Only \$6.50 per square foot?

Mr. Epp: —to \$7 per square foot for my rent.

Mr. Gregory: What I am saying—not to be playing off one member against another—is it seems there is something inherently unfair in that Herb can have, in effect, more than three times the space I can because of the rental rates. There must be some way of tying the location in with the market rates and making a variable for a member.

For example, my allowance might be higher than Herb's because I am required to pay rent—

Mr. Epp: I have only 500 square feet, but I know what you are saying.

Mr. Gregory: The last time I brought this up the Board of Internal Economy jacked everybody's up to the same level. In other words, they added a couple of thousand dollars to it. That was not what I was asking for. That meant Elie Martel could then have 2,000 square feet, and—

Mr. McClellan: You still have 400.

Mr. Gregory: —I still have 400. There must be somebody in your assembly, sir, who could have a look at that.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I think this is going to take a lot of work and should be on a future agenda. If we ever get into the position of looking at each individual member and his position, we will spend the rest of our lives negotiating in our own caucuses.

Mr. McClellan: No; he was suggesting on a regional basis.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I do not want to do the negotiating now that I am suggesting we are going to have to do in the future. This is why I was suggesting we may have to look at some flexibility. It seems to me, from having talked to people in my own caucus who have problems, that those who are in the expensive rent areas also have fewer problems of distance between numbers of the people they serve. In looking at it in a general way you may find that it almost evens out.

In other words, someone in the north who is serving a huge area maybe needs three small offices and hires part-time people. On the other hand, the rents are very cheap. Having talked to my members who have problems, if we introduce flexibility we will resolve their problems. I would recommend to the three of us—we all sit on the Board of Internal Economy—that we resolve it at a future date.

Mr. Chairman: Please have a meeting and solve that. Any other points on constituency offices?

Mr. Epp: Mr. Mitchinson has left, but I was wondering if there is any projection with respect to putting the Datapoint in the constituency offices in the future.

Ms. Schoenberger: Yes, there is. We have no dates available yet, but that is the long-range projection.

Mr. Epp: Long range meaning two or three years?

Ms. Schoenberger: Yes, something like that. Item 8 agreed to.

12:10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Had there been anybody here on the next item would there have been any questions? Carried.

Item 10 agreed to.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, just on a point of clarification, are you carrying vote 1101, item 10?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Epp: You are not going to carry that over for future discussion when you do the other?

Mr. Chairman: I am told that is not advisable.

Mr. Epp: I will accept that; I am sure if somebody wanted to open it up they could later on.

Mr. Chairman: When we go to the election office we can go wide-ranging. In fact, if you would like Gordon Aitken here we can have him here whenever that happens.

On item 11, legislative library:

Mr. Chairman: We have a witness and no questions.

Mr. Epp: I have a question. How many researchers do you have now, Mr. Land?

Mr. Land: I believe it is 16. I am subject to correction; the chief is present.

Mr. Epp: Have you had any increases in those numbers since you started, during this year?

Mr. Land: At the second most recent meeting of the Board of Internal Economy we had approval for three contract researchers and that is included in that number. Three of the 15 are on contract. The reason for the increase was the tremendous increase in committee activity, notably the social development and the resources development committees, where we have members assigned.

Mr. Epp: Generally, are things running smoothly?

Mr. Land: There has been a tremendous increase in the use of not only the research but also the reference services. I mentioned the increased committee activity which requires the services of research.

The other thing that has had a great impact on the library is the addition of the personal research assistants for members. There are probably somewhere between 20 and 24 personal research assistants for members on staff and most of those people have been coming to the library to do their research.

We have had a tremendous surge in the number of questions and in the complexity of questions. Libraries frequently divide reference

questions between what they call simple reference questions, an address or something fairly straightforward, and those that require, let us say, more than 15 minutes. We have had within the last month, as compared with last October, about an 80 per cent increase in that kind of question. So the questions are getting far more complex.

Mr. Epp: Is there any computerization required there?

Mr. Land: Yes, we have two types of computer applications, really. One is the Geac computer system that is used for cataloguing the books and other materials, videotapes, microfiche and so on. That is located at Bloor Street in rented space.

In addition, we have a computer terminal in the library used primarily for searching commercial databases such as Info Globe, the Globe and Mail on line, and about 16 other database systems. In that way we have access to hundreds of thousands of reports produced in North America and worldwide; that is we find the citations, we then have to follow up and acquire a copy of the report.

Item 11 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: The next item, which is a statutory item, is the contribution to the Legislative Assembly retirement allowance account and the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act. I presume these are the estimates of the office we are dealing with, and it is statutory. Does anyone think the \$1.2 million should be lowered?

Mr. Gregory: I have a fair bit of talking to do on this one, but I think it should be at the Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. McClellan: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the estimates carry and shall they be reported to the House?.

Vote 1101 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: If the House leaders decides to refer the election office to us, would you meet at 9:30 a.m. on November 20 to consider these for an hour? I presume they would not allocate more than one hour. That is a Wednesday, two weeks from today. We will be meeting at 10 a.m. to consider the estimates of the Ministry of Health.

As all caucuses are aware, we had originally intended to meet this afternoon to start the estimates of Health, but there was a three-party agreement that we not do that. Any disagreement on meeting at 9:30 in two weeks?

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: You can convey that to the powers that be.

Mr. Speaker: May I just say thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before closing, I would like to remind all members about this little book they have in their offices. If they have any specific questions the names of the people are listed in front. I hope you make use of this book.

Mr. Epp: That is an excellent book.

The committee adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

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McCague, G. R., Chairman (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (Carleton East L)

Smith, E. J. (London South L)

From the Office of the Assembly:

Bailie, W. R., Chief Election Officer

Brannan, P. A., Editor of Debates, Hansard Reporting Service

Decker, T., Assistant Clerk

Fleming, R. J., Director of Administration

Land, B. R., Executive Director, Legislative Library, Research and Information Services

Lewis, R. G., Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mitchinson, T., Director, Information Services Branch

Robinson, J., Assistant to the Director of Finance, Office of the Director of Administration

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No. G-2

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government

Estimates, Office of the Assembly



First Session, 33rd Parliament

Wednesday, November 20, 1985

Morning Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorald NDP)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, November 20, 1985

The committee met at 9:35 a.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY (continued)

On vote 1201, item 1, office of the chief election officer:

Mr. Chairman: Originally, these estimates were to have been included with the Office of the Speaker. There was a slight oversight when they were printed, so we are spending 30 minutes this morning, or whatever time it takes, to deal with them. I hope you have them with you, the 1985-86 estimates of \$487,000.

We will entertain questions in the absence of any statement, unless you would like to hear from Mr. Bailie.

Mr. Swart: If Mr. Bailie has any preliminary comments he would like to make, we should hear them. I have one question I would like to ask.

Mr. Bailie: Mr. Chairman, our office is operating pretty well with the same staff we had in the previous year. We have just asked for an increase of two complement positions, and the Board of Internal Economy has approved one of those two positions. So for all intents and purposes, our staff remains the same as it has been, given the fact that when Mr. Lewis stepped down as chief election officer, I took his position as chief and we no longer have an assistant chief. It really puts our staff at the same number of permanent employees as it has been for quite a few years.

There have been no significant changes in the categories of those staff members, so the estimates you see here, which you will appreciate are for the cost of the permanent staff only, remain just the same as last year, with the appropriate increments for salary and fringe benefits.

Mr. Swart: I would like to ask about the selection process for returning officers in the various areas. Perhaps I could preface the question by saying that over the years in the Welland area we have had some good returning officers and at least one extremely incompetent returning officer. It is fair to say that the appointments have been made partly on a

partisan basis. The one bad appointment was made on that basis.

I am not sure whether you were with the office at the time, but we made a complaint and had a meeting with Mr. Lewis. That returning officer was not only incompetent but also very partisan. She held meetings for the deputy returning officers and the poll clerks, and held them in the Conservative committee rooms. There was no neutrality whatsoever. On one particular occasion she notified the press on the day of an election that she had called the police to eject me from a poll, where as a candidate, of course, I had an absolute right to be. It was also reported on the radio. She was eventually discharged.

I am not trying to bring up things which are finished; this goes back a number of years. However, I would like to know the process of appointment. What consultation takes place in the area? I do not have any objection to a partisan appointment if the person is competent. The person must realize that a returning officer has to exercise neutrality. I would like to know about the consultation process to ensure that someone who is competent to be the returning officer in that riding is selected.

Mr. Bailie: I have been concerned about some of the things you have mentioned since I came to the office 10 years ago. However, I do not have any direct knowledge of the case you are talking about.

The first thing I instituted was a guideline for the advice of cabinet. Under section 7 of the act cabinet has the authority to appoint the returning officers. It also was section 7 of the previous act. The Election Act does not give any authority for consultation with the chief election officer's office.

However, I prepared some guidelines on my own. They seem to have been well received. I had been a returning officer at times, at the federal and provincial levels. I produced some guidelines, sent them to cabinet, and asked cabinet to make sure it gives consideration to the guidelines when selecting or appointing a returning officer.

We rated the returning officers at the end of each election, during the same 10-year period. We sought the approval of cabinet to encourage three, four or five to resign before the next

elections came up. We have been reasonably successful.

More important, we were successful in having several new sections added when we were developing the new Election Act, which was passed in December of last year. One of the sections points out to returning officers, "A returning officer shall comply with any oral or written instruction received from the chief election officer." Previously, there were no sections that made it clear to returning officers that they must follow the instructions of the chief election officer.

I also received approval to include the main part of the oath they take now. We developed a new oath, to make it very clear to them and have that included in the act. This is pointed out to both prospective and present returning officers. It is pointed out to them again when it seems to be necessary.

It reads, "Every returning officer immediately upon receiving the notice of his appointment shall take the prescribed oath, faithfully to perform his duties without partiality, fear, favour or affection."

I can assure you that I have made it very clear to returning officers that this is something we are going to be watching, for their own good. I think returning officers are going to get themselves into trouble and they are going to call into disrepute the administration which appointed them, if they do not take this seriously. I hope there has been a change in this. We are watching it carefully.

Mr. Swart: You may not want to answer this question and I shall understand if you do not. Do you feel it would be wise to change the legislation so that returning officers would be appointed by the chief election officer? I am fully aware that we in this Legislature are in a partisan position. However, it seems to me that an appointed chief election officer could be more impartial than the cabinet in making appointments.

I have some reason to believe the situation that happened in Niagara probably would not happen again. There are many places in the province where the best, most competent person for that position was not appointed for partisan reasons. You may not want to answer and I am not trying to put you on the spot, but it seems the logical process that the chief electoral officer should be selecting the returning officers in each of the ridings.

Mr. Bailie: The chief election officers of Canada hold annual meetings and we discuss such matters. I am aware that in Quebec there is a

process by which a short list of names is selected by cabinet and recommended to the chief election officer. From a short list of three or four—I cannot remember the number—he will select one and that person is appointed. That is a system which touches on what you are saying, but also retains what I think is a fairly important principle, which is that my office does not have contact all across the province.

I do not think it is a bad idea that the cabinet appoints returning officers, providing that it gives serious thought to their competence and ability to manage the time and funds at their disposal. Also, the individual should have the realization that it is a commitment of time which requires a six or seven week leave of absence. I think I have been reasonably successful of late in getting cabinet to make considerations.

On several occasions that I have had contact with the Cabinet Office I would say, "Give us the name of a prospect." I would then proceed to question that returning officer very carefully. I would phone back to the Cabinet Office and say: "Okay, I have talked to this chap. I believe he can handle it. He understands the time commitment and so forth."

Often the next question was, "Then you are prepared to appoint him, are you?" thinking that I had that authority. I said: "If you would like me to proceed to make out the order in council papers, we will be glad to do that. I think this person can handle it."

It would be for the cabinet to decide and, from preliminary discussions with the cabinet officials in the present government, I know they are looking very seriously at a more comprehensive system of selecting prospective people for appointment as returning officers; but I do not think it has been settled just how that will happen.

Mr. Swart: From what you say, what is taking place now seems to provide more consultation than there was in years gone by, but there is no legislation which requires that and I assume it could revert at any time to the situation which may have existed 20 years ago.

We as members of this Legislature, and the government itself, have some responsibility to show some concern about the way things have been done in the past and to make some changes in the legislation to ensure consultation. Whether it is that three names are submitted or whatever the case may be, a process should be set up by legislation so that numbers of people are considered and the best ones selected. This has not been the case in the past.

9:50 a.m.

Incidentally, in the case I was speaking of, that person was not reappointed for the subsequent election, but it was an absolute disaster. We have had some excellent returning officers. One who has been there federally for about 20 years would have been a very partisan person when she was appointed but she realized that her job was to be impartial. She is very competent, and no one could want for a better returning officer. The exact reverse has been true and I just want to ensure that does not happen again. We may need a private members' bill or something of that nature to be introduced in the Legislature and the government may follow up on it.

That is the only question I wanted to raise, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other points anybody wishes to make?

I might just say, and probably Mr. Bailie would substantiate this, that one of the problems with the returning officers is that in many cases you do not know whether you have a good one until you have tried the person. I think you have found that and often the best qualified person does not turn out to be able to handle the kind of rigorous activity you put them through in a very short period of time.

Mr. Bailie: That is so true. Having been a returning officer myself, I have had the opportunity when interviewing a prospective returning officer to make sure they understand, from my own experience, the number of 16- and 17-hour days, starting at 7:30 in the morning and going sometimes until 10 at night. I do not mean every day, but there are many days like that.

I try to make sure they are aware. Some of the prospective candidates say, "It sounds very interesting." However, a few days later a candidate will phone to say that he has talked to his doctor and been advised to decline the appointment. I think it is bearing fruit and it is important to make sure that the prospective candidate realizes the commitment of time and energy that is required in this job.

Mr. Swart: I would just add that there is the question of competence. That often can be determined by the consultative process with people in the area in a variety of ways. That has not always been done in the past. The prime criteria have been having the right political stripe and some history of having done work for the party. I am not saying that in an extremely critical way, but that has been the situation in the past.

Every party wants competent returning officers. We have to ensure that is the case and the

procedures are set up so that we are assured that we get them. There are always mistakes made. Nothing is perfect in human institutions, but we have to strive to have that system to get the best possible person in each area.

Mr. Bailie: I will certainly vote for that. I am sorry. I do not have a vote.

Mr. Poirier: Having gone through two different elections, the by-election in December and starting all over again for the general election in the spring, I must commend you for the improvement in French-language services that we noticed coming out of your office for the formation of the personnel for the teams.

We had realized in the by-election the concern about people being able to fully understand because, as you know, a lot of the terms are very technical. It is very precise; almost legalese. Sometimes, ordinary people who would like to work, but are looking at a second language, are a bit shy to stand up and say: "I am sorry. I do not fully understand this legalese," even with the films and so on.

I want to commend you and encourage you to continue with that. It is extremely important that the people who are going to work for you indirectly during an election fully understand their role in every aspect. Even if they just miss out one point, that is the point that is going to cause a problem at the very last minute during an election. I can only encourage you.

In the riding of Prescott-Russell, maybe 90 or 95 per cent of all the workers were French-speaking and it was very important for them to understand your directives. We noticed a big improvement between the elections and we cannot wait to see what it is going to be like for the next election and many years down the road.

Mr. McKessock: I am just looking at the estimates. Can you tell me what the special warrant of \$200,000 is?

Mr. Bailie: I will ask Mr. Jim Goodwin, our chief financial officer, and his assistant, the financial officer, Mrs. Tam, to respond to that question.

Mr. Goodwin: The \$200,000 was for the special warrant because the estimates had not gone through at that time. I believe everyone in the Legislative Assembly office if not the other ministries ran out of money. So a last minute warrant was put out so we could get paid.

Mr. McKessock: Am I reading that correctly? The estimates for 1985-86 are about one third of what they actually were for 1983-84. Was that to

gear up for the election—the extra costs in 1983-84?

Mr. Goodwin: No. Prior to the 1985-86 estimates, the chief election office paid back to the Legislative Assembly office all salaries and benefits through our accountable warrant. Therefore, the estimates have remained the same but, since the advent of the new act, we have to submit the estimates. The money does not now come out of the accountable warrant.

Vote 1201 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the office of the chief election officer.

The committee recessed at 9:56 a.m.

10:09 a.m.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman: We are starting the estimates of the Ministry of Health. I welcome the minister, Mr. Elston, and the deputy minister, Dr. Dyer.

I believe the minister has an opening statement.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Before we start, I would like to make sure the other members of the committee agree that after we do the opening statements this morning and perhaps get through the first vote, at two o'clock this afternoon we proceed with a briefing from the ministry on the Ontario drug plan and some history of what has led us to where we are now. Maybe we could send out Hansard to the thousands of people who are phoning instead of answering all the calls. Some of my caucus colleagues would like to come in at two o'clock since we have talked about doing this.

Mr. Chairman: Could we take a few minutes to consider that item? One of the problems we risk is the word is out in the community, whoever put it there, that we are going to consider the bill this afternoon. I have had four calls in the last two days from druggists who say the bill is being considered on Wednesday. I said, "The House does not sit on Wednesday." I did not realize that some people thought it was going to be dealt with here. We run a risk in that I do not know if this room is big enough, if I am right in that assumption.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The people who talked to me thought the bill was coming up in the House on Thursday.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They also thought it would be here on Monday.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They are just tracking the minister and that is fine. We tell them where he is all the time and give out his phone number on occasion. We want to talk about history, not to discuss details or debate the bill. We would like to get more background information so we can all be more knowledgeable about a very complicated problem.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Elston will be done by 11 o'clock. Could we decide then how we will proceed this afternoon? Would that be suitable?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We discussed this yesterday with your critic and your whip—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Which critic?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: With your deputy critic and your whip. There seemed to be agreement in the House that this would be a good way to go this afternoon. I notified my caucus colleagues, who have been talking to me at length about this issue, that if they wanted some background information they could drop in this afternoon and sit in as members of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They could sit in the audience at any event. At whatever stage we consider it, there is nothing to prevent members of the public from joining us. They cannot participate, but they can sit in and listen. Whenever it is up for discussion or whenever that vote is available, we will have to discuss it. I would be prepared to—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would be prepared to pass that vote this afternoon.

Dr. Dyer: It would need to be clarified that this is not consideration of the bill in committee. This is not the committee; it is an information session for the members.

Hon. Mr. Elston: When I attended committee on a regular basis as an opposition member, this used to be my favourite part of the estimates because I could do my mail. It used to take two or three hours for the minister to go through his opening statement. We have decided on a bit of a departure this time. We will not take the two, three or four hours which has been traditional under the other regime. We hope this style will carry on to shorten the length of the presentations.

Mr. Chairman: That is where you let the cat out of the bag. You hope you get away with 15 hours instead of 20 hours.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In any event, the tradition of rambling on will not be a tradition with this minister. If it carries on, it will be a break from that tradition.

Let me start by focusing my remarks on a number of areas where important health care developments are occurring. These selected topics will identify some of the directions which I, as minister, intend to pursue. They will also give you a sense of some of the broad policy issues the Peterson government will be addressing in the coming months.

With respect to this statement, I must indicate that these areas of action are not designed to be in any particular listing or sense of priorities but are a sample of the directions we intend to take in various areas.

Our government has no higher priority than to guarantee all elderly citizens of this province the dignity, respect and quality of life they have earned and deserve. It is estimated that the percentage of elderly people in Ontario will increase from just over nine per cent today, to approximately 14 per cent by the turn of the century, and to 20 per cent by the year 2025. These statistics and the service needs they project compel us to give considerable thought to the planning of health care programs for the elderly.

For example, we must develop a stronger orientation to preventive measures and health maintenance—so that in living longer people are also healthier and more able. In other words, we must develop and have in place those programs and services that promote the autonomy and independence of elderly people.

We must seek out alternatives to what is now an over-reliance on institutional care. In Canada, more than nine per cent of our elderly people live in institutions. This is one of the highest rates in the world. One of our priorities, therefore, is to develop a better and more effective balance between the institutional sector and the range of community-based care programs available to elderly people.

To lead this effort, the Premier has appointed a Minister without Portfolio for senior citizens affairs, the Honourable Ron Van Horne. Many of you, as members, were present in your own ridings when the minister was involved in his consultative process.

The minister is now conducting a review of the programs and services available to seniors in this province. The objective is to determine the most effective way to organize responsibility for funding, delivery and management of these programs. Let me emphasize that in this exercise the Minister without Portfolio is receiving full co-operation from me, from the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and from other ministries.

This government is determined that all ministries providing services to the elderly must work together so that any gaps in services might be identified, duplication will be avoided and fragmentation of services, where it now exists, might be overcome.

My ministry and the Ministry of Community and Social Services are moving now to introduce a homemaker program for the frail elderly and are in the process of completing the implementation details. The program will benefit people who need assistance with household tasks but do not need the medical attention that is now a requirement for admission to current home care programs.

We also will need to develop more assessment and placement mechanisms to evaluate the needs of elderly people and direct them to the most appropriate community program or facility. Our goal is to build a comprehensive co-ordinated network of services, in which the elderly are able to move smoothly from one level of care to another as their health status and their support needs change and evolve.

Any community services network must also meet such needs as housing, transportation, income support and recreation. All programs should be readily accessible to the elderly and their families, preferably through a single contact point. This is not to suggest that nursing homes and other institutions will become redundant or of declining importance in any shift towards community-based care. Our population trends alone ensure there will be a continuing demand for institutional care, even with enhanced community support.

At present, of the private sector nursing homes of this province, 95 per cent are run by profit-making organizations and only five per cent by nonprofit groups. It seems a fair question to ask if there is not room in the extended care field for a broader, nonprofit role. In general, nonprofit organizations have performed well in operating public hospitals and delivering community-based services. Surely this reserve of talent could contribute to the provision of long-term care.

Many ethnic groups and community organizations, for example, would like to establish nursing homes where residents could live and be cared for in the cultural setting to which they are accustomed. In practically all of these instances, the sponsoring organization would be community-based and nonprofit.

The ministry now is in the process of revising the proposal call procedures for awarding nurs-

ing home beds to encourage wider community participation. First, we are taking the process to communities across the province. Public meetings will be held at the local level rather than exclusively in Toronto. We expect this move will stimulate more proposals from both public and private organizations. Second, we have altered the submission requirements to reduce the costs of responding to a proposal call. This streamlining should make it feasible for more community groups to compete.

10:20 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, I assure you quality of care will be the most important priority in forming the policy decisions of our government about care for the elderly. The recent epidemic at the Extencare nursing home in London shows clearly that we cannot overemphasize this point.

Because so many frail elderly people reside in Ontario nursing homes, we cannot be too vigilant in our concern for their health, protection and safety. This is a matter that I have taken on as a personal priority, and I am committed to seeing that every measure possible is taken that will enhance and improve the protection of nursing home residents.

Let me stress that living in an institutional setting need not and must not entail a loss of personal freedom or sense of purpose. The ministry is therefore considering the introduction of stronger measures to protect residents' rights, such as the strengthening of residents' councils now in place.

Stronger ties between nursing homes and the community would also have a positive impact on the emotional wellbeing of residents. This could work both ways. More volunteers could get involved in the social life of the residents and the homes could serve the community in new ways, such as providing vacation relief for families with an elderly relative at home.

In co-operation with the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Van Horne) responsible for senior citizens and the elderly and my cabinet colleagues, I am determined that we are going to resolve these issues and that we will begin moving on the health care reforms Ontario senior citizens require.

The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) recently announced that all hospitals in Ontario will receive an increase of four per cent in their base allocations for 1986-87. In addition, the budget increase provided to the ministry will permit a further 4.3 per cent increase for growth and enhancements in hospital programs. Overall, the increase in

provincial spending on hospitals amounts to 8.3 per cent more than in the 1985-86 budget.

These increases will bring total hospital spending by my ministry to more than \$4.6 billion. In providing this funding increase, our government is emphasizing its commitment not only to maintain the basic components of our health care system, but also to recognize the work-load pressures in hospitals and to provide them with the necessary money for growth within the system. The ministry has also been authorized to approve funding for new programs to be started in the next fiscal year. The annual cost of these programs will total \$54 million.

Our government is increasing its spending in the hospital sector at a rate much greater than the rate of inflation. This commitment is being made at a time when the federal government is threatening to reduce its transfer payments to the provinces for health care and education, beginning in 1986-87. Our government will maintain the commitment that the health care system of this province be adequately funded.

I am certain that the announcement of the increase in basic allocation for both next year and the year after will permit hospitals to plan their budgets with greater certainty and allow them to plan more effectively for the provision of adequate and effective hospital care. The modern hospital setting where we see rapid scientific and technological growth, rising utilization patterns and a spiralling impact on costs for services is a major policy challenge.

In this country, as in many others, health care providers, hospital administrators and policy decision makers are now rethinking many of the traditional concepts in health care and considering what, in today's environment, represents effective, economic and ethical use of health care resources.

We now have under way in this province a health services patterns project with representatives from the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Hospital Association and the ministry. This group has been charged with analyzing the growth in utilization of hospital and health care services, where it is occurring, why it is occurring and what an appropriate response should be.

As the work of this important committee progresses, I hope the ministry and the many health care provider groups in our province will be able to make some major decisions about the application and use of our health care resources and that together we will create an environment

that promotes stronger, more effective management of the Ontario health care system.

One of the immediate issues to which our government must respond is the need to improve health care services for the residents of northern Ontario. This is an issue on which a number of promises were made by the previous government. It is one on which this government intends to take action. This month I will be introducing a program that will provide subsidies to northern residents who must travel significant distances for medical specialist and hospital care.

To promote greater medical self-sufficiency in the north, we will also proceed on two other fronts. First, we are developing a recruitment program to encourage more medical specialists to locate in the north during the next several years. Second, we will provide incentives to enable medical specialists to travel from the major northern centres to patients in smaller communities.

In order to move ahead quickly with the initiatives, the ministry sponsored a series of consultations with hospital administrators, medical staff and local medical societies in five northern centres: Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay and Timmins.

I might add at this juncture that my parliamentary assistant, the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward), has done a considerable amount of work. He has travelled extensively in northern Ontario and has done a wonderful job of accumulating the material that has been given.

During these consultations we sought local advice on the types of additional medical specialties now required in the north, where specialists would appropriately be located, the patient referral patterns that should be developed to provide better access to care and the travel outreach programs that specialists might undertake to serve smaller northern communities.

As we move to put in place the various components of this program, it is also our intention to create a committee structure composed of northern general practitioners and specialists to monitor program development and to provide recommendations and advice.

Since taking on the Health portfolio, I have become aware that northern hospitals, physicians and many municipalities were unhappy that our dedicated air ambulance fleet was not manned on a 24-hour basis. With the full support and agreement of cabinet, I announced on October 30 that, effective immediately, Ontario's air ambulance program would be extended to 24-hour, round-the-clock service.

We also decided that the skills of the medical attendants would be upgraded in order to provide improved patient care during transit. The training program and the skills level that the attendants will need will be determined by the ministry in consultation with doctors and hospitals that are now using this service.

Finally, we plan to assign all air ambulance attendants to designated hospitals. Once the skills of the air ambulance attendants are upgraded, they will require direct physician supervision because many of their activities, like those of the paramedics, will be delegated medical acts. It is extremely important, therefore, for the attendants and base hospital physicians to work together as closely as possible so that a bonding relationship can be developed between the physicians and the attendants.

I am confident our air ambulance program will now meet all concerns about the previous limitations in service. I am also confident the comfort, safety and security of all air ambulance patients will be greatly improved with this new service expansion.

The health system of this country rests on the fundamental principle that every Canadian is entitled to a range of comprehensive and accessible health services. Access to these services should not be determined by a family's or an individual's financial status or ability to pay.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) has said the principles of universality and accessibility will be guaranteed in Ontario. During the recent Ontario election, our party campaigned on the platform that extra billing would be banned. That is a promise that has been made; it is one that will be kept. It is the intention of this government to ensure access to the health care system to every person in our province, access not only to basic care but also to the specialized care a patient may require.

Our government has spent considerable time and effort in reviewing the extra-billing issue, how it is practised in Ontario and its impact on our health care services. It is my personal conviction, the conviction of the Ontario government and the conviction of most residents of Ontario that extra billing impedes or has the potential to impede access to medically necessary health care services. As long as it is permitted to exist, it will continue to threaten one of the principles on which our health care system is founded.

Next month I will introduce legislation in the House to put an end to the practice of extra billing

in this province. Our intention is to introduce legislation that will be responsive to the Ontario context, legislation that will take into account those features of our health care system that are unique as well as those we share with other provinces. If we are to succeed at that task, we must begin now to develop an appropriate, workable, made-in-Ontario response to the extra-billing issue.

10:30 a.m.

With the support and co-operation of the district health councils, we recently began a public information process to give concerned groups an opportunity to learn about extra billing, to express their opinions and to understand why the Ontario government intends to take action. Forums were held in eight of nine centres throughout the province—Kingston, Ottawa, Sudbury, Windsor, Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and London—and another will be held this Saturday in Toronto. Once the public information sessions are concluded, the next step will be to move to the introduction of legislation to ban extra billing.

As the legislation moves through the House, it will be reviewed by a committee of the Legislature. During that process, interested parties will have another opportunity to present their views and ideas about how the legislation should be framed.

This government wants to resolve the extra-billing issue fairly and equitably. We want to resolve it in a way that meets both the needs of the doctors and the citizens of this province. We are determined to resolve it as quickly as we can.

The Ontario drug benefit program is an essential component of this province's health care system. Under ODB people 65 years of age and older, those on provincial assistance programs, those in extended care facilities and in the home care program are able to receive prescription drugs at no charge. ODB now represents approximately 40 per cent of the Ontario drug market. More than 1.3 million people use the service each year. This government is committed to ensuring continued coverage for all eligible Ontario residents.

In the past six years, however, the cost of financing the Ontario drug benefit program has risen by approximately 23 per cent annually to \$350 million from \$100 million. This year it was projected that costs could be in the order of \$400 million. This kind of growth is not acceptable to our government.

More than 2,300 therapeutically effective and quality-tested drugs with their prices are listed in

the Ontario drug benefit formulary that is published twice each year by the Ministry of Health under normal circumstances. Most of you realize however that there has not been a new formulary since January 1, 1985. Pharmacies are then reimbursed by the government for drugs dispensed under ODB according to the formulary price plus a dispensing fee.

A growing number of manufacturers found their marketing position was improved by submitting unrealistically high prices for multiple source drugs, the interchangeable drugs, to the formulary. This meant the prices for drugs listed in the formulary were often much higher than what pharmacists were actually paying for them. The greater the price spread between a manufacturer's listed price and the actual acquisition cost of a drug, the greater the profit to pharmacies and the greater the chance that pharmacies would choose that product to stock and sell. It can easily be seen how this resulted in excess costs to the drug benefit plan.

The facts of this situation are outlined in the Provincial Auditor's report of 1984 and examined at length in the Gordon commission report that was received by the Ministry of Health a year ago. This problem is one our government inherited. It is one that developed during the previous administration. Two of my predecessors in the previous government have publicly admitted their frustration at being unable to carry out corrective action.

As Minister of Health, I was not prepared to accept unrealistic prices for Ontario's drug benefit formulary. To do so would only have placed a continuing and unnecessary economic burden on Ontario taxpayers and consumers. On November 7, I introduced two bills in the Legislature designed to give the government legislative authority to manage the Ontario drug benefit plan and to ensure that high quality, low-cost drugs are available and accessible to the Ontario public.

The first bill, the Ontario Drug Benefit Act, gives government the authority to determine what drugs are to be included in the Ontario drug benefit plan; who is eligible to receive drug benefits; and the prices the government will pay for drugs listed in the formulary.

The second bill, the Prescription Drug Cost Regulation Act, allows government to designate which drugs are interchangeable. It also specifies that unless a prescription says "no substitution," pharmacists must inform customers about their right to an interchangeable product. Pharmacists will also be required to itemize the price of the

drug and the dispensing fee either on the customer's receipt or on the prescription label.

The two acts are complementary in that government use of public funds will be more properly controlled and consumer interests in the marketplace better protected.

The growing incidence of acquired immune deficiency syndrome or AIDS has rapidly become a major public health issue in Ontario. Across Canada, 322 AIDS cases have been diagnosed and 45 per cent of the victims are Ontario residents. Of that total, 158 AIDS victims have died; 164 remain alive.

When we look at our own statistics for Ontario, we get a clear picture about how this disease is continuing to grow. In 1982, five cases of AIDS were diagnosed in this province. In 1983, there were 13 cases and in 1984, 45 cases. This year, to date, 87 new cases have been discovered.

Last August I announced that the province would provide up to \$1 million to the Canadian Red Cross Society as part of Ontario's contribution to the startup of a nationwide blood screening and blood testing program. Our ministry's central laboratory in Etobicoke is also beginning diagnostic specimen testing, a service that formerly had only been available to Ontario physicians at the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa.

While these initiatives are all important and will make a positive contribution in the fight against AIDS, I am also concerned about the many myths and misconceptions that persist about the disease and about the lack of information resources that are available to the people of Ontario.

In order to promote a well-defined and co-ordinated approach to public information and education, the ministry has established an Ontario AIDS public education advisory panel chaired by Dr. Jaye Brown, associate professor of social work at McMaster University. The panel has been given responsibility to identify our educational and informational needs with regard to this disease. It will review the resources that are currently available and undertake the development of communications programs for both the Ontario public and specific high-risk groups.

Up to \$200,000 in funds has been made available to support the activities of the panel. An additional \$100,000 has been made available by the Ontario government to the AIDS Committee of Toronto, ACT, for its support and counselling program to AIDS victims.

I would point out that at the recent provincial-territorial health ministers' conference held in Toronto in September, the AIDS issue was a concern for all ministers and a topic to which we devoted a great deal of attention. All ministers agreed that public education is now an important priority in the fight against this disease. Ontario has agreed to share the resources and results of our public education efforts with the other provinces.

I must mention that the matter of patient confidentiality with regard to testing procedures for AIDS has become a concern. I have therefore ordered that the laboratory requisition forms for AIDS antibody tests be designed so that information about risk group categories would not be required. I did this because of legitimate concerns raised by many people who felt that detailed and personal information about patients should not be collected. I concurred with that view and I ordered that the identification of risk groups be eliminated from the forms.

At this time, I must underscore the fact that the decision is always reviewable. I understand there will be a provincial-federal deputy health ministers' conference later this year, at which time we hope to be able to develop ways and means of ensuring that all provinces require the same information. Certainly, we will be looking to standardize procedures and practices right across the country.

I would also like to inform this committee that the Red Cross will now report all positive results of its blood-screening tests to the medical officers of health. The ministry will not be collecting this information as was originally planned. I felt it was unnecessary for the ministry to become involved in this process.

I fully expect these changes will allay the concerns of those who were worried about the reporting of lab tests and the collection of information. I would like to stress, however, that the ministry will have access to the statistical information, and the medical officers of health in each community will have the information they need to continue to protect the public.

I am determined that every effort will be made in this province to inform people about this disease, to initiate measures that will protect them from it and to ensure that AIDS victims receive the support and counselling services they need.

Just in passing, I might say when I went home from work on Monday evening, I caught the tail end of a program aired by Rogers channel 10, I think. It was recorded in Vancouver and featured

a panel of five physicians who had done a great deal of work in San Francisco. I think that type of program is also of considerable interest to us in Ontario because it provided an awful lot of good information and experience about what had happened in San Francisco.

In today's environment, mental health care and treatment is changing dramatically. Public understanding about the nature of illness has improved and, among professionals, it is recognized that for many patients institutionalization may not be the most appropriate environment for health recovery.

10:40 a.m.

In Ontario, we are striving to build up a balanced mental health system, one that ensures quality care for those who require an institutional setting and one that offers appropriate support and aftercare to patients who are living in the community. Appropriate community aftercare and support services can help facilitate the transition from an institution. They can help reduce the number of readmissions or prolong the period between admissions. In some cases, the right kind of community support means institutionalization is not necessary.

The development of community mental health programs is, therefore, a priority. In 1981-82, the ministry allocated \$21 million to fund 157 community mental health and addiction programs. Today, 306 programs are funded for a total of \$51.3 million, a funding increase of 140 per cent over the past four years. Funding covers alcohol and drug addiction programs, supportive housing programs, co-ordination programs that promote effective delivery of mental health services and programs aimed at prevention, rehabilitation, psychogeriatric services and volunteer support.

While the ministry is committed to the development of more community-based programs, institutional care services are also being improved. Action is being taken, for example, to improve accessibility of mental health services to Ontario's francophone population. The ministry hired the consulting firm of Touche Ross and Partners to review French-language needs at the Brockville and North Bay psychiatric hospitals, both of which serve large francophone populations.

The reports have been completed and already a number of the recommendations have been implemented at North Bay, including the appointment of a French-language co-ordinator for the hospital. In Brockville, the hospital and its

community advisory board are now addressing the recommendations.

We are clearly making progress in mental health care in Ontario, but much more still needs to be accomplished. With an increasing elderly population, we will need to enhance our psychogeriatric programs. We will have to build on the foundation we have laid in the area of public education and we must strike the right balance between institutional care and the broad spectrum of community-based services.

We are fortunate in that we have a dedicated network of mental health planners, service providers and volunteers who are committed to these objectives. Through them we will meet every challenge in mental health in this province.

In the past few years we became accustomed in Ontario to hearing Ministers of Health talk at length about the need for more health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. Despite the rhetoric, we are still without a co-ordinated health promotion effort in this province, a situation that as Minister of Health I am determined to see turned around.

First, we must agree on what we want to achieve and what measures we can use to evaluate our activities. I believe it would not be particularly difficult to reach agreement on general goals for the improvement of health, through prevention, for residents of Ontario. The ministry has been preparing this framework and shortly will be circulating it to district health councils and other planning groups as well as health care provider and consumer organizations. The ministry will then begin the co-ordination of a public process in which objectives are developed, based on our accepted general goals and relating to the reduction of lifestyle hazards for Ontario residents.

One of the barriers to health promotion that now exists relates to program information. There are well over 200 organizations and agencies in Ontario, government and nongovernment, which are active in health promotion activities. A basic description or a reference source for all these activities has not been available, however. To address this lack of availability of basic program information, the ministry is now compiling a provincial directory of health promotion programs, a first in Ontario.

Outlining activities in the area of smoking cessation, alcohol and drug abuse, nutrition and fitness, the directory will identify programs and activities, give a brief description, state their objectives and indicate the targeted population group. But descriptive program information,

basic and necessary as it is, does not overcome a second barrier to effective health promotion, namely, the problems surrounding program evaluation.

What works? What does not work? What is the most effective approach? In some communities, particularly those close to academic centres, specialized information is sometimes available, depending upon local research interests. That is good, but access to this information is at present uneven and uncertain across the province.

Some very fine work has been done, particularly in the area of smoking and alcohol programs, but we still see too many subjective assessments and too many suspect methodologies. There is little reliable assessment of ongoing programs and new program proposals.

To address this issue and in response to advice from the implementation group, chaired by Steve Podborski, I propose to establish a health promotion evaluation fund. Beginning fiscal year 1986-87, an amount of \$1 million will be allocated. I have asked that special emphasis be placed on the evaluation of projects which promise to be effective in promoting healthy lifestyles.

While recent trends in Ontario indicate a growing awareness on the part of employers about the benefits of health promotion, not only for their employees but also for the community at large, there is little recognition of these activities.

I have therefore established a new awards program to recognize employer excellence in health promotion. The awards will be selected on the advice of regional nomination committees, with representation from the health care system and from business, and presented yearly at a province-wide function.

Because of the active involvement of district health councils in health promotion, I have suggested that Action Centre, the annual meeting of the district health councils, would provide an excellent occasion to acknowledge local employer efforts. I have asked the DHCs for their input into the nomination and selection of award recipients.

Another barrier to effective health promotion is public access to information. This may seem surprising at first glance in view of the heavy use of print and electronic media by many agencies, but there are still many difficulties for the French-speaking population, for those in search of information on sensitive topics, for the young and for those who may have difficulty in

knowing what information services are available.

One promising project, still in its early stages but already giving evidence of great potential, is the telephone response system called Dial-A-Fact being developed by the Addiction Research Foundation.

The foundation has identified 41 most frequently asked questions about alcohol and other drugs. Short three to five minute tapes have been prepared and can be heard by dialing a toll-free number from anywhere in the province. Public response to this experimental service has been impressive, growing to a current level of 5,000 calls per month.

Accordingly, I have asked that Dial-A-Fact be developed further to address the public's growing need for information and that services be expanded in French and other languages. We will review progress with this project early next year, particularly with regard to its future potential and its value and function within the health care system.

The health disciplines legislative review is the next topic of discussion. Our government recognizes the importance of regulation of the health care profession as a method of ensuring that the public obtains competent and effective health care service. As you are aware, an extensive review is now under way to modernize and restructure Ontario's health professions legislation.

Let me confirm my personal support and encouragement for this much-needed review process. Indeed, it represents one of my key priorities as minister. I have been thoroughly briefed by the review team and I am keeping in close touch with the progress of their work.

The review has received an enthusiastic response from health professionals, institutions and consumer organizations. In all, some 131 groups have participated, representing 73 health care professions. I might just say the last estimate by the way is that more than 6,000 pages of material has been accumulated by the review team.

It has been more than a decade since the last attempt to overhaul the system. As you may recall, the Committee on the Healing Arts was formed in 1966, reported in 1970, and led to the enactment of the Health Disciplines Act in 1974. I do not see many of us who would have been around since 1966, so probably none of us would recall that it started in 1966. The overall exercise took eight years and produced new legislation for only five professions. I expect the current review

to be much quicker and much more comprehensive.

Given the rising utilization of health care services and the growing sophistication of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, it is necessary that we take every precaution to guarantee consumer protection in the health care field. Assuring the best possible quality of patient care is the fundamental object of the review process.

The review is an open, participative exercise. A lot of people get involved in this process, which permits a thorough and orderly consideration of both the professional and consumer viewpoints. All organizations affected have been invited to express their opinions and any concerns they might have about the briefs which have been submitted.

10:50 a.m.

In December 1984, the focus of the review narrowed with the release of an interim list of professions to be regulated. Of the 73 professions participating in the review, 39 were included on this short list. This decision and the upcoming decision on the final list of professions to be regulated will be based on the criteria developed by the review team. The review team received submissions from all groups on this issue last month. I expect to receive the review team's recommendations regarding the final list within the next few months.

The final list will likely include some professions to be regulated for the first time and may also exclude some currently regulated disciplines. I fully recognize that difficult choices may be necessary here, but after reviewing all sides of the arguments, I will announce my final decision on the professions to be regulated.

We will then move to the second phase of the review, which will address a variety of unresolved issues among several health care disciplines. Most of these outstanding regulatory disputes involve disagreements between related professions about their respective scope of practice and their roles in the provision of health care.

The professions concerned have been urged to negotiate their differences among themselves, keeping in mind, of course, that any proposed solution must serve the public interest. I want to underscore that it must serve the public interest. The review team will assist in these negotiations if necessary, but no one should assume that the issues will be put on hold if professions cannot reach consensus among themselves. I see it as my responsibility as Minister of Health to make

decisions to ensure the best quality of care and I intend to meet that responsibility.

In addition to settling the scope of practice issues, the second phase of the review will determine the structure of the new legislation and develop due process provisions. The review team has recently released a discussion paper on these legal matters, and all interested participants have submitted briefs in response.

Once the policy and procedural questions have been resolved, the decisions will then be translated into draft legislation for presentation to the participating groups. The eventual outcome will be the enactment of new legislation governing the health professions.

It is not yet possible to set a deadline for the completion of the review, but I emphasize that the ministry and the review team are determined to move ahead as rapidly as possible without compromising the integrity of the analysis or the commitment to consultation. I am confident the health disciplines review will create an environment in which all professions may work more effectively together, and we can move towards our shared goal of the best health care service for the people of Ontario.

In conclusion, I have touched on only a number of issues to which the Ministry of Health is responding. There are other important policy matters that have not been mentioned here: women's health issues, the need for more co-operation among hospitals and provision of services, the review of electroconvulsive therapy, improved access to health care for francophone Ontarians and the evaluation of the patient advocate program in psychiatric hospitals. These are all matters under policy development, and I would be pleased to discuss them with the committee during the time allotted to us.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, do you have a statement?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: First of all, I would like to welcome the minister to this committee. I am not sure if he was ever involved in Health estimates in the past, but this is my third time and I always look forward to this.

Hon. Mr. Elston: To a new minister, do you mean?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, I do not look forward to the estimates at all. None the less, it is something we all have to do.

I want to compliment the minister, first of all, by saying that certainly the health professions I have talked to since you became minister feel you are much more accessible than ministers have been in the recent past. I think that is very

important if we are to develop policies that respond to the needs of the people of this province.

Second, as a partisan politician, I must comment that normally the official opposition gives the first response. I think these are one of the most important sets of estimates of the government that we deal with in committee. I regret very much that even though the official opposition has not only a critic but a deputy critic, it did not feel this was important enough to present an opening statement here today.

This is my third set of estimates as Health critic for my party and, while the problems within the health care system remain the same, I, along with most people in our province, have expectations and hope that new directions will lead to solutions. The problems in the health care system, such as hospital overcrowding, inappropriately placed patients, nursing home problems, inadequate home supports, a lack of community support for discharged psychiatric patients, capital for hospitals, the lack of regulation of rest homes—and the list goes on—are all issues that have been left to you by the former government.

The most essential change necessary is a change in direction away from the medical model, which relies so heavily on doctors and institutions, to a community-based health promotion, multi-professional, health care system.

Did you have an opening statement, Mr. Wiseman, on your party's behalf?

Mr. Wiseman: I was just wondering whether the minister wrote the speech for you.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, I write my own. I do not have staff to write my opening statement.

In this connection, the review of the Ontario health disciplines legislation by Mr. Schwartz will be most important, not only for the professions, consumers and taxpayers, but also for setting the direction of health care in our province.

I am sure you have been contacted by many and various professions; I have been also. I want to see this review process completed as quickly as possible, if for no other reason than it will cut down considerably on the number of meetings requested of me and the volume of correspondence. However, obviously more important is the fact that this review and the resulting changes in legislation will have a substantial effect on Ontario's health care system.

You know of my interest in the issue of midwifery. Its lack of integration into the health care system, resulting in the exclusive use of obstetricians, is a waste of money and a misuse of

doctors whose prime mission is to provide care for women experiencing abnormal pregnancies.

Midwives, on the other hand, are recognized by the World Health Organization as the experts in normal pregnancies and birth. Therefore, in Ontario's health care system we have an overuse of one profession and the underuse of another. This makes for an uneconomical, inefficient health care system.

This is not to say women and families should not have a choice. Instead, it is to say they should be able to choose for themselves. I am sure many women would choose midwives, thus saving money for the taxpayers, while at the same time, providing a continuum of care.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As long as they were assured there was appropriate training.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That, obviously, is part of the health disciplines review, the setting up of a college and all the rest that flows from that.

With regard to the same general area, I hope the minister will be responding positively soon to the Toronto Birth Centre Committee. This nonmedical model approach to birth would also provide choice and would save money. The idea is not revolutionary because many birthing centres exist in the United States. In Ontario our overreliance on institutions and doctors has prevented this concept from proceeding.

Both alternatives, midwives and birthing centres, go hand in hand. There is a growing demand in Ontario for these alternatives to traditional services. Surely it is time we stopped treating pregnancy and birth as an illness. Midwives and the birthing centre committee understand that proper backup services in case of a medical emergency must be in place; however, this can be accomplished. For the government to move in these directions would be a very important signal to all in the health care community that we are moving forward, away from the medical model in Ontario.

In the health disciplines legislation review, when Mr. Schwartz's committee reports to the minister, I hope he will consider that one alternative is to look at sending his report to a committee of the Legislature. While I think Mr. Schwartz and his group have done an outstanding job of consulting the groups concerned, the process has been somewhat isolated from the general public which, in the end, is supposed to be protected by this legislation.

It would be appropriate, before the government locks itself into any recommendations from this committee, that the public have an opportunity to respond to them and that members of the

Legislature have an opportunity to become fully informed of and involved in the process. This process could perhaps be similar to that used for Bill 77, the children's legislation, where a green paper came forward, was sent out to committee, the committee then made recommendations and sent it back to the minister. The result was a bill that incorporated many of the ideas from the green paper but also many ideas from the public and the members of the Legislature.

I would like to move on to some comments on the role of registered nursing assistants, which is a related issue under the health disciplines legislative review. Registered nursing assistants currently are underutilized in our province and I believe their positions are being eroded. The Woods Gordon study commissioned by the Ontario Registered Nursing Assistants Association had the following conclusion:

11 a.m.

"There was a clear trend of attrition of registered nursing assistant positions in hospitals over the three-year period ending March 31, 1984. This attrition occurred during a period in which total nursing hours increased. The loss of registered nursing assistant positions during this period involved a shift from full-time to part-time registered nursing assistants, with a net decrease of three per cent in full-time equivalent positions in the active treatment hospitals. Meanwhile, full-time equivalent registered nursing positions in these hospitals increased by 4.7 per cent. The decline in registered nursing assistant employment levels resulted almost entirely from the replacements by RNs in the hospitals."

The elimination of registered nursing assistants will in the long run mean even further increases in hospital costs and an erosion of bedside care. RNs also provide bedside care, but their additional skills should be fully utilized, as should the skills of registered nursing assistants. Without a ministry policy on this matter, we will continue to have a hotchpotch of responses from hospitals and the eventual elimination of registered nursing assistants, without even considering the economic and health care implications at the province-wide level.

If all health care professions are used to the limits of their skills and training, the result will be a far more efficient and economical health care system. I would be most interested in hearing the response of the minister to the Woods Gordon study commissioned by the Ontario Registered Nursing Assistants Association, and specifically a response to the 13 recommendations in the report.

Public health nurse strikes: As the minister is aware, public health nurses remain on strike in Chatham, Kent and Windsor-Essex. The main issue in dispute is parity with hospital nurses, which I believe is a fair request. The ministry has always responded that these contract disputes are a matter between local health boards and the Ontario nurses' association and that the ministry is not a part of the negotiations.

However, the reality is that local boards cannot settle these disputes fairly without more money from the ministry. When wages are the main issue involved, the ministry is a party to the dispute. If this matter involved only one health unit, then the ministry might not be required to intervene. However, when the salary inequities are province-wide, the problem can be solved only by the ministry.

Public health nurses play a vital role in promoting the physical, mental and social wellbeing of individuals and families with programs in maternal services, child services, mental health, family planning, home care, etc.

In 1976, the then Minister of Health, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), made a policy statement in the Legislature regarding the wages of public health nurses. In it he recognized the need for parity with nurses in hospitals, and you should do the same thing now.

Emergency services: Trauma from motor vehicle accidents, falls, fires and homicides is the third most common cause of death in Ontario and the leading cause of death for those under the age of 45. As the minister knows, the Sunnybrook regional trauma unit is the only such trauma centre in the province. Operating since 1976, it has seen its case load grow from 70 per year to 500 per year. The centre operates with 60 per cent of its cases coming from outside Metro.

I raised this matter in last year's estimates and would be most interested to know what the policy of the current minister is on establishing a province-wide system of trauma centres. The effectiveness of trauma centres has been documented over and over again. United States studies show a reduced death rate from trauma of 30 per cent to 40 per cent.

Directly related is the paramedic program, which I believe is now being evaluated before more training takes place. Again, the effectiveness of the paramedic services has been proven in other jurisdictions. Your former colleague Sheila Copps, when she was Health critic, raised the matter in estimates every year. She pointed to her own family experience to illustrate how essential

the paramedic program is. I would appreciate an update on where the evaluation of this pilot project is and when training will commence again so that more of Ontario will be able to benefit from the paramedic program.

Hospital overcrowding: This is my third set of estimates for the ministry, as I have said, and this will be the third time I have raised the issue of hospital overcrowding. I am not going to dwell on the issue other than to say that the problem continues to exist. The fact that large numbers of patients are waiting in acute care beds for chronic care or nursing home beds is an ongoing problem. This problem cannot continue to be ignored.

Recently I had a call from a constituent whose relative went into Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital in Windsor on an emergency basis. The relative is in his 70s and needed emergency surgery. He was placed in outpatient facilities, then in the holding area and then in his own room. This occurred within a few days and the result of this moving, when combined with drugs he was receiving for pain, was absolute confusion and disorientation. Luckily, this person came around, but the confusion resulted in a much longer stay in hospital than would normally have been the case, and this meant more backup in the system and more cost to the system.

The use of hallways, special holding areas, etc., is not good health care. In discussing this matter with the administrator of Hotel Dieu hospital, he pointed out that coronary care patients who do not have a proper placement cannot be properly monitored. This puts those patients at great risk.

We must address the inappropriately placed patient problem quickly. Strategies for alternative placements must be put in place. Home care programs now in place, such as home care for the frail and elderly, must be expanded so that people in institutions can be returned home. The minister referred to that in his opening statement, but those of us who have been in opposition on a regular ongoing basis will believe it when we see it. This program was first promised back in 1981 by the former government.

There are other alternatives such as group homes for the elderly and day hospitals and day care programs. These types of programs can free up some extended care beds which will free up acute care beds. The current system is wasteful and does not meet patients' needs. Until the ministry comes to grips with this problem, we will continue to put lives at risk.

I would appreciate knowing from the minister exactly what the 8.3 per cent increase in hospital funding is all about. Does the 8.3 per cent recognize the need to fund hospital patients using holding areas in hallways? In my own community, Metropolitan General Hospital has a significant deficit that it relates to the costs associated with serving patients in hallways and holding areas. Does the 8.3 per cent increase address this problem?

Extra billing: To date, six months after assuming office, extra billing is still legal in this province. While the minister states the government will recover its money, individuals being extra billed will never recover their money.

In answer to a question from the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) in the House on November 4, the minister stated that individual cases should be brought to his attention so that individual circumstances can be examined. This kind of response is identical to that of former Ministers of Health in the Conservative government.

It took the minister a very short period to introduce legislation to correct the problems with the Ontario drug plan, yet the problem of extra billing has not been addressed to date. The Ontario Medical Association will not meet with the minister, so health councils have been used to set up public forums on extra billing. District health councils were set up to provide advice to the minister regarding regional health care planning. They were not set up to do public relations for the government. By using health councils in this manner, the minister has undermined the credibility of these councils in the province.

The minister is probably aware that the doctors on the health council in my own area quit the other night as a result of these public forums. I attended one of the public forums in Windsor. It was poorly attended, but it did follow the script as laid out for it by the minister. The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) read his speech as provided for him by the ministry. I did not feel the meeting was helpful at all and it will take some time to heal the wounds in health councils that have resulted from these forums.

My party's position has not changed. We feel the best approach to use to ban extra billing is one where there is one fee schedule. This approach, which has been followed in other provinces, allows doctors who for reasons of conscience want to opt out, to do so. Their fee schedule, however, would be the one negotiated by the OMA and the Ontario health insurance plan.

A mechanism will have to be put in place to settle fee disputes. Legislation setting out steps for negotiations which would eventually lead to arbitration if the negotiations fail, is necessary.

The other alternative, the Quebec model whereby if doctors opt out they get out completely, will result only in the loss of access to specialists in large cities and teaching hospitals. This problem exists now in Ontario and the Quebec model does not solve the problem. The Quebec model would eliminate some of the financial incentives to opt out and thus more doctors would be opted in, but I suspect a large number of specialists would remain out of OHIP. This would result in reduced access for low-income families because patients would have to pick up 100 per cent of the costs.

I hope we will see action on this matter very soon so the problem of extra billing can be put behind us once and for all. Then we can get on with other health care issues that are just as important to the future of medicare in Ontario.

11:10 p.m.

Assistive devices program: In July 1982, the former government introduced the assistive devices program to pay 75 per cent of the cost of equipment and devices such as wheelchairs, braces, lifts, etc. required by disabled people under the age of 18. The program has been evaluated and the advisory committee a long time ago recommended implementation of stage 2 to extend the program to adults. The former government agreed to extend the program July 1, 1985.

This government, however, is now saying in a form letter, and I quote: "I am sure you can appreciate the complexity of expanding a program as extensive as the assistive devices program. Until I have had the opportunity to fully review this complex issue, it will not be possible to indicate our intentions in this matter."

What are the complexities? Is the review complete, and if so, why can you not proceed? We have all had numerous cases come to our attention. If the minister understands the hardships imposed on people requiring assistive devices, as his colleagues Mr. Sweeney and Ms. Copps did when they were Health critics, surely he would agree that adults should be able to access this program.

The program has never spent its budget. I look at the estimates this year and I do not see what the actual expenditures were for 1983-84. Perhaps that figure could be provided to us when we get to that vote. In the past, while we budgeted \$9 million for quite some time, the expenditures

have usually been in the neighbourhood of \$2.5 million of that \$9 million.

The average cost to provide basic equipment for a quadriplegic is approximately \$10,000. After this startup, there are ongoing costs for maintenance and replacement of equipment. Electric wheelchairs cost up to \$4,000 with maintenance costs that can reach \$1,000. Prosthetic devices are also expensive, ranging from \$1,000 to many thousands. Thousands of women who have had to deal with breast cancer must sometimes spend hundreds of dollars to purchase a breast prosthesis.

We have all received letters outlining specific cases of individual hardship. I ran through a few of these in estimates and I will briefly outline a few that have come to my attention lately. A 71-year-old widow, living on old age security and Canada pension, has great difficulty affording ostomy supplies following an illostomy several years ago. Monthly supplies cost about \$66. There is a quadriplegic single parent trying to raise two small children on his own. A 53-year-old paraplegic, unemployed, living on CPP, recently had to buy a wheelchair costing \$983. A pensioner in Blind River was referred from the federal government to the provincial government, to the War Amputees Association, to the March of Dimes, to the Salvation Army, and in the end he borrowed \$1,300 against his pension to buy an artificial leg.

There are many other individuals who have been in similar need. Much of their time and that of their families is taken up going from one service desk to another trying to get help. Many do not get help.

The time to act is now. There is simply no reason we cannot proceed. I would appreciate the minister telling the committee what the problems are and when he will act to correct this injustice.

Regarding medical labs, over the last number of months I have received an increasing number of letters and calls from doctors concerned about private medical labs. One such letter came from Dr. Ford and Dr. Kisilevsky. They sent the letter to my leader. I passed it on to the minister and received a response that outlined a problem of cost control, which must be addressed. The letter reads in part:

"This problem is best described from our local standpoint in Kingston, but the same problem with some local variations appears to prevail throughout Ontario. The teaching hospitals in Kingston provide laboratory services for the investigation of patients within the hospital and those attending the outpatient departments. The

hospital also provides a laboratory reference service for the smaller hospitals in the surrounding community and the pathology laboratory has in the past also undertaken investigations for physicians in general practice in the surrounding communities.

"This service has been provided for many years under the hospital's global budget. This global budget covers laboratory costs and there is no additional charge to either individuals or to the Ontario health insurance plan for tests referred to it from the local community.

"Also operating in this area is a private laboratory that is part of a large, province-wide concern providing facilities for a wide range of investigation, essentially duplicating many of those done within the globally funded hospital laboratories. The private establishment bills OHIP per item of service at a rate which, in real dollar terms, is considerably in excess of the cost of local hospitals doing the same tests.

"Over the last year or two, because of failure to increase our global budget funding proportionate to inflation, we are under considerable financial pressure to discontinue the referred work from the local community. This leaves the field free for the independent competition to pick up this quite extensive work load and whose only price restraint is the OHIP billing rate. Far from decreasing the health care cost, this has the opposite effect. The hospital laboratories, on one hand, must cut a community service for which they are not being reimbursed and which they can perform more cheaply than the competition. On the other hand, the service remains in the hands of those who can profit from the existing policy.

"A conflict exists between a real policy to decrease health care costs and an ideological priority not to tamper with free enterprise. If government policy and priority really is to decrease health care costs, the solution is obvious. It does not make economic sense to have two expensive systems operating in one area when, for a modest increase in global funding of the hospital laboratories, we could cover virtually all investigations within our area for considerably less cost than it takes to operate two systems. The money thus saved could be well used in other parts of the health care system where there is demonstrable need."

A similar letter from Dr. Rasaich in Sault Ste. Marie states in part:

"The Ontario health care system would save millions of dollars by enabling hospitals to bill OHIP for a fair discounted percentage of the fee schedule for outpatient laboratory services. The

specimen collection centre associated with Laurentian Hospital in Sudbury operates within a global budget equivalent to 35 per cent of the OHIP fee schedule. Frustrated by the inability to access OHIP for a larger percentage of the fee schedule to make collection viable, the hospital is seriously considering closing the centre."

According to this letter, "In 1983, 182 private labs extracted \$180 million from OHIP. One can only speculate what the figure will be in 1985-86." Perhaps the ministry can provide the committee with that figure.

I have been told that doctors order an average of \$70,000 worth of tests in a year. Is this the case? If so, what are the profit figures for private labs from each doctor? Has the ministry examined charges that low rents are provided in medical office buildings to doctors in return for all their lab work? It seems to me this is one area that deserves serious examination by the ministry. If some of these claims are correct, a shake-up of the system could save the taxpayers millions of dollars, which could be redirected into other needed programs.

With regard to psychiatric care, since your government took office little has been said or done in that whole area, specifically in community support for discharged psychiatric patients. I would be most interested in knowing what the ministry's plans are. Is it this minister's view that the Ministry of Health should assume full responsibility for co-ordinating all services for discharged psychiatric patients? If this is your policy, what new initiatives are you planning so that adequate community services are in place?

Boarding homes and rest homes are still heavily relied on for housing. The care and programs remain totally inadequate. The responsibility for regulation remains with the municipalities. In 1983 the Heseltine report recommended that we must have a continuum of rehabilitation and maintenance services. This is still far from what exists in any community in Ontario.

What is the status of the Gerstein report? Is implementation of the recommendations still being held up one and a half years after its release? Have any steps been taken to put in place a crisis intervention facility in Toronto? I would appreciate a full report on this matter during the estimates debate or perhaps in response to opening statements.

I gather the report of the Electro-convulsive Therapy Review Committee, which was referred to in the minister's statement, is almost com-

plete. Does the minister know when we will see this report from Mr. Clark and his committee?

Many cases come into our office every year when family members of mentally ill citizens are unable to access the system. Psychiatrists refuse to admit people, stating that they are not a danger to themselves or others. They are taking a very narrow definition of the Mental Health Act, in my view.

11:20 a.m.

Is it time for the Mental Health Act to be reviewed to see if the 1978 amendments are working the way we in the Legislature envisioned them to work? Does the legislation need changing or do members of the mental health community need direction from the ministry? I am not suggesting a return to the old days but I believe that many in the field and in our communities feel something is not working.

What is the minister's response to a brief presented to him in July 1985 by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division, regarding improvements to advocacy and patients' rights? The minister will be aware that they recommended:

1. Make the existing Ontario psychiatric patient advocate program independent of the government.
2. Expand the independent program to persons in homes for special care and in psychiatric sections of general hospitals.
3. Reconsider the current plan for the Ministry of the Attorney General to administer the patients' rights advisory program and avoid creating a two-class system of patients' rights protection.

Finally, I would appreciate a report on whether or not a process is now in place under a provision of the Mental Health Act whereby an involuntary patient is visited by a lawyer through legal aid to advise him of his rights, and if this process is helpful. Are patients' rights being protected more adequately? Is there follow-up, or is it a procedure whereby someone is told of his or her rights without an understanding or follow-up? Could the minister tell me whether or not patients use the advice and work through the system to question their committal? What is the experience thus far?

Head-injured patients. The lack of community services for victims of head injuries is an issue I raised with former Ministers of Health several times over the last number of years. The usual course of action these days is that because the behaviour of the individuals is similar to that of discharged psychiatric patients, they are admit-

ted to provincial psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric wards of general hospitals. Hospitals refuse admission as the behaviour becomes chronic. The rest homes, Young Men's Christian Association, Salvation Army, etc., become home on a rotating basis. Cheap hotels and streets become a way of life when these facilities will no longer tolerate the often inappropriate behaviour of head-injured persons.

Families are put under incredible pressure during this whole period, through feelings of guilt and pressure from the individual for money or a place to live. The life of the head-injured person is lost, and family members also have their lives destroyed.

I spoke to Dr. Dornan on several occasions. He is chief of rehabilitation services at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He has written several good articles about the effects on individuals and families associated with this problem. He has also put forward proposals for a program at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and suggested that they be implemented. The minister will know that approximately one per cent of our population suffers from head injuries and the repercussions of behavioural disorders, according to articles Dr. Dornan has written.

In southwestern Ontario, the Dale Home in London has just opened. However, I understand they already have a waiting list. A group of people in my home community have put together a group home proposal. However, it is months, if not years, away from becoming a reality. The fact is the proposal calls for a group home facility with no rehabilitation component, even if it could become a reality tomorrow.

Perhaps someone from the ministry can give us an overview of the services which now exist in the province for head-injured people, both rehab and community, when we get to the appropriate vote. I have been struck over the last few years by one other point: the lack of attention this whole issue has received. I am aware of it only because of a few cases that have come into my office. However, generally speaking, this is an area where few people have taken any notice. The Ministry of Health has completely ignored the problem which Dr. Dornan says affects as much as one per cent of our population.

I can tell you, Mr. Minister, that the cases I have dealt with have been tragic. This may never become a major political issue. However, it is a health care matter that must be addressed. I encourage you to meet with Dr. Dornan if you have not already done so. He can teach you about the issue the way he has taught me and others.

We can discuss this matter further when we get to the appropriate vote.

Senior citizens: I do not need to tell the minister that thousands of Ontario seniors in institutions do not want to be there and do not need to be there. The former government, as one of its last duties, allotted 4,500 more nursing home beds to the province, plus 2,500 more extended care—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Your timing is not quite right. I think it was announced on April 17.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It still was one of their last deeds.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Oh, they did several before the final curtain.

Mr. Wiseman: After what you said in your opening paragraphs, where you put out all the flowers, and after you have read your speech, I thought you might want to change that for the sake of Hansard.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If you want to get a job in my office as a speechwriter, Doug, just apply.

Mr. Wiseman: Now you have read it, I thought you might want to change that paragraph where you threw out all the flowers.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There are a lot of other applicants, too.

The former government, as one of its last deeds, announced 4,500 more nursing home beds in this province and 2,500 more extended care beds in homes for the aged. The cost of these beds could fund, on an annual basis, numerous programs that could keep people in their homes. I understand, and I approve of, this government's decision not to proceed with the nursing home beds. I understand that some of the 4,500 beds will be put in place, but very few.

Perhaps the minister can clarify this matter. How many of these beds will be put into the system and what criteria are being used? I would hope that families who want to help keep parents at home, or individuals who want to stay at home by themselves, will be supported. It is time for this new direction to be clearly set out.

One dramatic act that could be taken to prove that institutionalization will not be the normal course any longer would be to re-examine the proposed large expansion of Doctors Hospital, specifically the re-examination of the chronic care beds. The capital and operating costs could be used to put in place home support programs to preserve independence and dignity for many chronically ill people in Toronto.

Transportation—this is what happens with word processors.

Mr. Villeneuve: You are right; you do need a new speechwriter.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is right. I know you do not like some of the things we are saying, but—

Mr. Wiseman: Oh, no; but you should have read it before you came.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: At least I have an opening statement, Mr. Wiseman. Where is your critic?

Mr. Wiseman: Our critic is sick today.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You have a deputy critic, too.

The social and financial costs of growing old are borne by seniors and their families with little government help. The profits from selling health care to the elderly are growing. Your ministry actively promotes for-profit provisions of services to seniors more than it promotes provision of better care. For every problem faced by seniors in Ontario, there is either a solution or a step towards a solution. As a result of talks we have had with seniors and care providers, we recommend the following principles should be the basis of providing care for seniors:

Seniors want to live in the community, not in institutions. Seniors' services must be provincially funded but planned and delivered locally. The goal should be to provide community supports that provide for the wellbeing and independence of individuals.

Financial, physical and moral support must be given to families who care for their elderly and help them remain independent. Services to seniors must be integrated and co-ordinated by one provincial ministry or agency.

Institutional care for seniors should be provided on a not-for-profit basis. The provincial government should take responsibility for funding and ensuring a high level of programming that will encourage senior citizen activity.

The lack of services for confused elderly, in particular those suffering from Alzheimer's disease, must be treated as an emergency.

These new directions can give thousands of Ontarians many more years of health and wellbeing. In many cases, these directions and alternatives cost less than the Ministry of Health's current wasteful policies.

The minister has indicated that eventually he will be proceeding with home care for the frail elderly. As the minister will be aware, the current home care programs are designed for those who require a medical component. You cannot get homemaker services unless you are sick enough to require acute home care or chronic home care.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services funds homemaker services for the needy on a means-tested basis. When are we going to get this homemaker services program, better known as home care for the frail elderly, which should be available across the board, not means tested? As I said, the former government promised it in 1981, yet to date it is not available all across Ontario. Former critics for the Liberal Party advocated this service. Now that you are in government, we expect and hope that you will act.

In St. Catharines, Doug Rapelje, head of the senior citizens' department for the regional municipality of Niagara, told us 27 per cent of the people enrolled in the region's day care program already had extended care certificates. These people qualify for placement in long-term care institutions but chose to remain in the community. They have the programs to help them.

11:30 a.m.

Seniors requiring medical and social services could often live on their own or with their relatives if they had access to suitable services. Many children could keep their parents at home if the parent had a daily activity and regular access to medical services. We visited a number of such programs over the last few years and found them to be extremely useful.

The day hospital in my own community at Riverview Hospital handles 15 patients a day in surplus space in the old hospital. It provides nursing services, good meals and recreation. This program helps keep people out of hospital and long-term care facilities, but it cannot even advertise its services as it is already overbooked and has no money to expand. Last year, I believe there were 22 day hospital programs in Ontario. I would like to know if there has been any expansion of that program.

We have seen too many examples of seniors having to chase the system to fit themselves into it. A new integrated model of service delivery is essential for better planning, more efficient use of taxpayers' money and more services. Ontario should set up local health and social service centres. These would investigate local needs, set the priorities and plan the most humane and effective services needed in the communities.

Each centre would be run by a community board. These centres would provide information and assessment services. As a result, the emphasis would not be on finding institutions, but putting together community support services and programs that would allow people to remain independent. The centres would also take an

active role in public health education and service referrals.

Our party has long favoured the expansion of community health centres. They deliver medical health and related services at convenient hours and locations. A person entering these clinics can get services from doctors, nurse practitioners, nutritionists and other health professionals. These multiservice health centres could be combined with places where seniors congregate, such as elderly person centres. Since community health centres serve more than just seniors, it would lead to even greater interaction. Many seniors using the same centre might justify the inclusion of other services.

Many care givers are on 24-hour, seven-days-a-week duty. The only way they can get a break is by imposing on a friend or paying someone. Often the parent will complain about these arrangements and the care giver becomes increasingly frustrated. There is a desperate shortage of services to give families a respite or a vacation. For example, in Ottawa there are fewer than a dozen respite beds available.

Bethammi Lodge, a nonprofit nursing home in Thunder Bay, impressed me as the best-run nursing home I have ever seen. It showed that under the Nursing Home Act a facility run on a not-for-profit basis could provide the care and love seniors deserve. This concrete example makes it clear that care should not be provided for profit. I encourage the minister, if he has not done so already, to visit this facility because I think he will also be very impressed.

Rest homes receive no provincial funding and are unregulated. They are often called retirement homes, lodging homes, senior citizens' residences, etc. They charge whatever fee they can collect. The only quality check comes from municipal enforcement, fire and building codes and the Public Health Act. Rest homes serve not only seniors but also discharged psychiatric patients, mentally handicapped, head-injured people, etc. The controls by municipalities are totally inadequate and will never be adequate since municipalities do not have the power and legislation or the dollars to provide proper regulation.

In my own home community, this year alone we have had one resident of a rest home fall from an unguarded roof and die. Another wandered away without his medication for diabetes and he also died. Numerous inquests have been held over the years and many times juries have recommended province-wide regulation. We have rest homes that are not regulated and we

have nursing homes that, with the recent court decision, in many cases cannot be regulated under the current act. When we get to the appropriate vote, I want to discuss what direction the minister plans on taking in these two areas.

I could discuss in more detail profit versus the nonprofit aspect of this issue, but since this will be a matter for the select committee, I hope we will be able to get into significant detail when that committee starts meeting.

I look forward to amendments to the Nursing Homes Act. I hope that financial accountability, a bill of rights for residents, independent advocacy, controls on sales and purchases of licences, quality of life and responsibility for regulations in the act, along with many other items, will be dealt with by the government. Expectations in this area are substantial and I hope we will all see them achieved.

I would appreciate an update on what Dr. Crittenden and her residents' complaint committee are doing these days. Since this committee was set up before you became minister, I hope you will be reviewing whether it is an appropriate, worthy committee and whether we should be looking in other directions to provide advocacy for residents in long-term care facilities.

I saw a copy of a letter sent to nursing home residents in May of this year, over the signature of Darwin Kealey, which outlined the committee's responsibilities. I would like to know what the response to that has been. Further, I would like to see the terms of reference for the review of the inspection services, which was one of the actions taken by the minister in response to the deaths at the London Extendicare Nursing Home. Has the review begun and will the results of the review be made public, and if so, when is the projected date?

With our ageing population and with our increasing health care costs, we must begin to take new directions. A recently released position paper by the Ontario Nurses Association sums up the problem. According to the Goldfarb poll commissioned by ONA, 80 per cent of consumers are concerned about the cost of the health care system.

There is great support for the principle that the system must remain universally accessible, as revealed by polls saying that nearly 70 per cent of the people of this province oppose extra billing. If, therefore, we are going to maintain quality and increase accessibility, strategies must be developed for cost control. A recent article in the *Toronto Star* outlined the problem of costs, but it

also pointed to some possible solutions that my party has been advocating for years.

For example, the expansion of the community health centres and health service organizations was a policy of the former government that was never enthusiastically supported by past Ministers of Health, even though this was first enunciated, I believe, by the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) when he said community health centres were no longer experimental, they were integral parts of the health care system.

Perhaps the first step we could take would be to introduce legislation to set up community health centres and HSOs as a permanent, integral component of our health care system. When we come to the appropriate vote, I would be interested to find out what direction this government intends to follow in this area; further, if I could get a better explanation of what the criteria are when communities apply for CHCs and HSOs, I would find that helpful.

In addition, steps such as global capitation, which would include hospital care for HSOs, should be examined. Perhaps Sault Ste. Marie would be the place to start. This step would potentially save money, reduce costs even further in community hospitals and be a powerful signal that Ontario is searching for new directions to improve the health care system in an efficient, economic manner.

We need better use of our health care professionals. Physiotherapists, nurses, nurse practitioners, midwives, psychologists, podiatrists, along with other professionals, should not be seen as second-class citizens to doctors. Instead, they should be seen as co-professionals who are currently underutilized in Ontario's health care system.

I am convinced that if we properly use a full range of professionals in hospitals, community health centres and health service organizations, we can provide better health care and slow down the rapidly increasing costs. This would require fewer doctors. Therefore, this new mode of health care delivery, when introduced, would have to limit the number of new doctors coming into the system.

Finally, we must look at alternatives to institutions. The better use of day hospitals, day care, group homes, home care, home care for the frail and elderly, would mean a shift in dollars from expensive institutions to less expensive alternatives in the community. These are essential if we are to maintain quality health care while controlling costs in our province.

11:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have a list of items underlined by Mr. Cooke. I thank him for his intervention by way of opening remarks, but I do not think I can comment on each of the items he has raised. I suspect we will get through a number of them as we proceed through the votes.

There are a number of issues which have been hanging on for a number of years with the Ministry of Health. One of the things I have done particularly is to address some of the needs I saw early on that could be decided upon. We have moved, for instance, on a 24-hour ambulance service in northern Ontario to improve accessibility to a large number of people there. I have been moving to address items such as that wherever possible and where flexibility in financial arrangements was allowed us.

Recently, I announced the cleft lip and palate program, which is an extension of a program spoken about for some years. We have provided direction on controlling some financial growth in the Ontario drug benefit program, as you earlier acknowledged. Where we are able to come to grips very quickly with items, we are proceeding to do that, after we have done the necessary analysis.

In broader programs, such as the assistive devices programs and others, where the financial implications, as well as the manner in which the programs are implemented, are complex and large and where the logistical arrangements are complex and need a lot of programming and planning to be put into place, it takes longer. We are working away at those as quickly as we can.

Some of the items you mentioned, such as hospital overcrowding and trauma centres, are being actively pursued by people inside the ministry. I cannot underscore enough the operation currently under way under the auspices of the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Van Horne), with respect to a number of the items which come under hospital overcrowding, chronic care needs, extended care bed needs, the rest home regulation and control needs and the development of community support services.

When the Minister without Portfolio reports to us, I suspect you will see a number of those issues addressed. In many ways, as I indicated earlier, it will be a response which has been assisted through a co-operative effort not only by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, but by other ministries as well.

A large number of the questions you have raised about seniors and the development of ways

of providing flexibility for acute care beds which are now blocked, as it were, will come about as a result of what has been a very quick study when you compare with what generally happens in a field as broad as that undertaken by the Minister without Portfolio.

He is addressing a number of items which will have impact on issues concerning the registered nursing assistants, the public health nurses and others you have talked about. We will be addressing a large number of issues when we have been able to review his report. At the same time, we are not waiting for that report to address critical items, such as the quality of care in nursing homes and others, which have been the subject of statements I have made in the Legislative Assembly.

Let me mention a couple of items, for instance, electroconvulsive therapy. Mr. Clark has been the chairman of a group dealing with electroconvulsive therapy, a group of about 16 people. I understand that has caused some logistic problems. Until recently he had been going to meet deadlines to provide us with the final report. Unfortunately, illness in the support group working with him meant that has been postponed. We now anticipate we will receive that report in December. We have provided extra people, in addition to the staff he already has, to help move some of those along.

We are reviewing a number of reports. There are a number on psychiatric hospitals, the analysis of the newly developed patient advocate system. I have increased by one the number of advocates now working in the psychiatric hospitals. There is an extra one at the Penetanguishene facilities. In anticipating what might come from reviews of programs, we have augmented systems in cases where we believed we could move reasonably and expeditiously towards improvements.

I have met with patient advocates, toured Whitby and have done a lot of work with people working in co-operation with the advocates program. I am well aware of the recommendations made by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario group, for instance.

I have expanded the role of consultation, which was generally acceptable, of ministries of health. I have been meeting on an ongoing basis not only with registered nursing assistants, but with the registered nurses and other groups to come to grips with the subject matter of their concerns. Largely, you will be looking at a planning mechanism which this ministry will have developed, which will be able to take some

steps in an orderly fashion, to address a number of the issues you identified as having been left over from previous ministers.

I thank you for outlining a number of the items of which we are quite aware. You outlined the concerns of colleagues of mine who were former Health critics. We understand a number of these are long-standing issues. We have moved to address some of them. The cleft lip and palate program is the most recently addressed. It was a long-standing item of discussion.

We are making progress in some of the areas. We will continue to make progress. Under the auspices of the Minister without Portfolio, you will see a large number of items occurring with respect to seniors' services which will impact significantly on hospital crowding and the direction which may be required for the funding of those services and the funding of community programs. With those general comments and replies, I am prepared to move further.

Mr. Chairman: I was not party to the agreements made between you and Mr. Cooke and the conversation with Mr. Turner. I thought Mr. Turner last night said that he would be giving his statement next week, but that may not be the case. I thought both of you were doing them next week. Did I misunderstand you, Mr. Cooke?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That was never what I understood. Normally, what happens is the minister gives his statement, then the official opposition, and then the third party. If Mr. Turner has an opening statement for next Wednesday, then the committee can decide what it wants. If that is the way it wants to go, that will throw the committee out a bit, but we have 20 hours and so we have adequate time.

Mr. Wiseman: Was that not agreed upon?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Actually, yesterday afternoon was the first time I was told your party would not have a critic here today. Mr. Turner did not even know, when I discussed it with him, that the estimates were up today. It came as a bit of a surprise that there would not be an opening statement today from your party.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In all fairness, Mr. Turner was not geared into the whole process, although I was advised two weeks ago, when we discussed postponing opening statements until today, that Mr. Turner was going to be the one substituting for your critic, Dr. Stephenson, who is not well. Obviously, nothing took place in the interim. Mr. Turner was not aware he should be present. I think he will be here this afternoon, but I do not think he is prepared.

If he has some items he wants to comment on, I will not prevent that; it is only fair that he has an opportunity. He may wish to make a reduced statement and then participate in the votes. That is up to the committee. I am going to be here.

Mr. Chairman: Could we chart our course? We might take the next 12 or 13 minutes to discuss main office and then at 2 pm go to vote 3603 item 4, the drug benefit plan. The official words are, "drug benefits." Is that agreed?

11:50 a.m.

On vote 3601, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a few questions on main office which are all-encompassing. Since there is not a specific vote on this and since rest homes do not come under your ministry, I would like to get an idea of what your feelings are with respect to the lack of regulation of rest homes. It has been an ongoing debate, as the minister will be aware. Municipalities, in some cases, have done their best to try to regulate rest homes, but even under the Municipal Act and their own enabling legislation, they do not really have the power.

With respect to a policy question, I would like to know in what direction you think you might be heading. There are thousands of people out there who are unprotected and, because of the backup in the system, the minister will be aware there are a lot of people in rest homes who really are extended care patients. We have had this argument in the past, as Dr. Dyer will remember, of whether or not some of these rest homes are actually operating as bootleg nursing homes. I have never had a great deal of success in getting ministries of health to go to look at some of these rest homes.

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we will not get into this under nursing homes. I thought that with the general discussion about the main office we would get into the increase in spending in the minister's office. When we are talking about something such as the nursing homes, Mr. Cooke will get his chance. He is now asking a general question on policy.

What I would like to find out from the minister, as we have just a few minutes, is why there is an increase in spending. Could he tell us if his staff—

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wiseman, excuse me. I have not been involved in committees for some eight years, but I can recall chairmen were never very successful in keeping people on track in these. I think we all might want to vary from time

to time. I do not intend that we finish the main office in 13 minutes, but rather that we start on it. I will let Mr. Cooke continue on the slant he is on. We will give him 10 minutes now.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If I may just ask this one, I will ask the rest of my main office questions next week. The reason I raise rest homes under this vote is that there is no vote on rest homes. It does not come under the Nursing Homes Act, Mr. Wiseman, otherwise I would raise it under the appropriate vote.

I would like to get an indication from the minister as to where he thinks he is going to be heading with respect to rest homes and province-wide regulation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In reply, rest homes are part of the study Mr. Van Horne is doing. He is doing a comprehensive review of services for the elderly, of which rest homes become a part. As I mentioned in my reply to your opening remarks, I suspect a number of issues, such as regulation of rest homes, are going to be addressed in the overall review that is being done by Mr. Van Horne. From that standpoint, I think that when he makes his report a number of those types of issues will be addressed for us.

Of course, we are co-operating as a ministry in that study. I know we have rest homes in our area. You talk about inadequacy of regulation. There are concerns that have been expressed to me along those lines, but I am working co-operatively, as is the staff of the ministry, with Mr. Van Horne's staff to develop a response through his programs.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is it your policy that if we bring to your attention rest homes which we feel are operating as illegal nursing homes—in other words, they have a large number of residents who are really extended care residents—then we can expect the nursing home inspection people to go in to investigate under the section of the Nursing Homes Act that refers to illegal nursing homes, people who are serving nursing home residents but who do not have licences to do so?

Hon. Mr. Elston: If you provide us with the information, we will assess it and we will develop a response to it.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have one final thing that directly relates to your original answer. I notice on page 19 of the briefing book, under "Special Corporate Projects" there is a statement that says, "The current special project is that of developing proposals for comprehensive health and related services for the elderly." How does that relate to what Mr. Van Horne is doing?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually, that project is part of what he is doing. In addition, we have provided staff, people from the ministry.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: So that is how it is being funded, or one of the mechanisms under which Mr. Van Horne is being funded?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. We are providing seconded people for his assistance. One of the people who has played a major role has been Glen Heagle from our office, together with others. Another is Gerry Duda from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Wiseman: Can the minister tell us what staff he has on his side? I know what Dr. Dyer has on his side, but not the minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You do know what he has?

Mr. Wiseman: I have an idea.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is good.

Mr. Wiseman: I would like to know how many staff you have? Have you one parliamentary assistant? How many executive assistants and researchers do you have? Does this make up the \$430,000 increase in the main office?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Wiseman will be quite aware that these estimates and the anticipated increase in expenditure were developed by his government. These are your estimates, Mr. Wiseman. If you are concerned about those numbers, you might want to talk to the former Treasurer, who is the current Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wiseman: I was just asking you how many staff you have.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will get to that, but I am just readdressing your concern about the increased allocation that appeared in the estimates for minister's office. That was for your boys and we are not living with those. We are much more frugal than you guys ever were. If you want to develop a response—

Mr. Wiseman: Can you tell us if you will reduce that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have not got the same number of staff as was customarily present on the minister's side.

Mr. Wiseman: Are you telling us that these estimates that we are looking at—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are yours.

Mr. Wiseman: —are not the true ones and you have something other than that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: These are the ones developed under the auspices of your ministry.

Mr. Wiseman: Are you going to tell us how much you have been able to pare off so we know what we are talking about?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not have final figures at this stage, but I can tell you I have not hired the same people. I have fewer people. I operated the first six weeks in the ministry with two assistants in the minister's side of the office and myself. When I appeared at the first two-week sitting, there was myself, my assistant, who came with me as a legislative assistant from my days in opposition, and one policy adviser, who had come from the Liberal research office. We were the component of the minister's office for those first six weeks.

I then brought on stream an executive assistant, Mr. Ronson, and from there we have expanded. He came in at about the middle of July. From there we have expanded to have a communications assistant, a legislative assistant and a senior policy adviser. There is secretarial staff as support as well.

Mr. Wiseman: How many secretaries?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Including my former legislative assistant, who has been now classified as secretary to the minister, Mrs. Mary Baxter, I have one; Mr. Ronson has one; and there is one in charge of scheduling and program travel. There is one being shared by three other people, including the constituency work person. Then there is the mail room staff. There might be about six or seven.

Mr. Wiseman: You cannot at this time tell us what you have pared off the previous government's bill?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot.

Mr. Wiseman: You took a bit of a shot at the previous government, suggesting that you were able to pare some off, but you have not been able to.

Hon. Mr. Elston: If there are only two assistants working with the minister for the first six weeks of the administration, that is a considerable saving over some 20 or more people who were working with the previous administration.

Mr. Epp: That is a difference of about 18.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am indicating that we were running without adequate staff, but we have added people as we have seen fit. Certainly, we are not going to make the same expenditures on the minister's side as was projected for the full year's allocation.

Mr. Villeneuve: I will not touch the staff business, but I want to congratulate you on your

appointment to the ministry that spends the most. I am kind of glad to hear you will be frugal. It is nice to hear that. Sometimes things do slip away.

I want to congratulate you on coming to Cornwall, for opening our new facilities and renaming the district health council the Eastern Ontario District Health Council. I see my colleague over there, the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Poirier). That district health council will be servicing three ridings and five counties. I cannot tell you I was entirely happy to see it leave the great riding of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

12 noon

Hon. Mr. Elston: I understand there was some minor debate.

Mr. Villeneuve: However, I believe it went to the logical town and I hope my colleague over there is happy with that move. I understand there is no great whining and grinding of teeth in Prescott-Russell.

Interjection: There is some grinding.

Mr. Villeneuve: There is probably a little bit of teeth grinding.

I am concerned over the extent of the government's involvement in the self-regulating professions, such as the medical and the pharmaceutical professions. I received a number of copies of letters and telegrams that have been addressed to the minister. There are grave concerns out there.

I am not that conversant with the Quebec model, but some of my friends in the medical profession are looking into it and what they tell me about it is not very encouraging. If you decide to go in that direction and basically take away a lot of the self-governing powers these professions have, you will somehow make allowance for these things. You are a very good lawyer, sir, and I wonder whether you would like the government doing that to your profession. It is a grave situation.

We are dealing with people's lives and their health. We are striking home in this particular area because the possibility of losing some of our highly capable medical practitioners, our specialists in many areas who are threatening to leave this province, is a grave concern not only to myself and my colleagues, but to my constituents, as indeed it should be to all the people of Ontario.

There are a number of situations I wish to address, such as nursing homes. I believe you have made a statement to the private owners of nursing homes that made them very nervous.

There is a very important operation going on in my riding called Mount Carmel House. I believe you are aware of it. I am in contact with one of your staff regarding what is happening here.

Regarding the assistive device situation, I have been involved with people from eastern Ontario. I was very concerned when I saw it was disregarded in your government's budget.

MacDonell Memorial Hospital, a chronic care hospital in my riding operated by a religious order, is very seriously underfunded. I wish to address that. The department of health inspectors—at least that is what they call them in my area—are under Dr. Bourdeaux, I believe. Would that be under your ministry?

Do they in any way, shape or form answer to you, or are they autonomous at the local level?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Some of the reports would come through to the public health board. Work goes to the public health unit, of course. We provide funding for the unit, but it is directed by the board and the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Villeneuve: We have a very serious problem in that most of our arenas were built a number of years ago. As far as I am concerned, their washroom facilities are adequate; I have been in these arenas with 1,000 people, but they can be licensed for only 300 and 400 now on special occasion permits. It is a great concern. You are the closest ministry to them that I can find, except possibly the Ministry of Labour. I would have lots to say about that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Presumably, they are looking at licensing, providing special occasion permits under the auspices of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, which has guidelines that are compatible with public health requirements for the number of urinals and toilets available for the number of people attending.

Mr. Villeneuve: But they were okay when they were built. All of a sudden they are declared almost redundant. Of all things, they are suggesting a bunch of portable toilets out in parking lots. That is totally ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It can be hard for people, if they have to use the facilities.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have never seen a problem.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You have never seen one?

Mr. Villeneuve: I have been to these places on numerous occasions when they were literally overflowing with people.

Hon. Mr. Elston: And the washrooms were not overflowing?

Mr. Villeneuve: No, there is a bigger line up at the Expo's stadium during inning breaks. I

cannot see a problem; yet we are being regulated to death. This is what scares me about your ministry and yourself, sir, as the minister stepping in to control many of these professions. It is a very scary situation in my view.

I know it is 12 o'clock. I thank you for this short opportunity and I will be back.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Poirier, do you want to make a short response?

Mr. Poirier: Yes, sir. Pertaining to the ministry overall, I must commend the minister for not trying to make the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest speech for the budget estimates. I appreciate that.

Mr. Villeneuve: The New Democratic Party will get that.

Mr. Poirier: That is right. We shall leave the names that are already in there as record holders. That seems quite fair to me. I feel like being generous about this. I do not want to take away the title for the longest speeches.

I also want to commend the ministry for taking care of services in other areas that are not immediately close to Toronto, namely, Prescott-Russell, which I have sometimes perceived in the past to be the Maritimes of Ontario, and also for providing French-language services.

When it comes to health, we know the problems francophones have had in the past and are still having sometimes in hospitals such as the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Children whose mother tongue is French might have a very hard time explaining to unilingual medical staff what the problem is. The parents are not always around to explain it to the medical staff. It has been a very deep concern of mine. I feel the current ministry will see these kinds of problems, when it comes to health, and life and death, and will correct the situations that still persist.

Concerning the District Health Council of Eastern Ontario, being a former geographer, I realize the previous government, when left with the task of deciding what to do with district health councils, found there were five counties left in eastern Ontario, east of Kingston and Ottawa. I guess they wanted to put the five counties together.

Whenever they look east of Ottawa or Kingston once in a while on the Ontario map, they thought this looked like a geographically interesting area to gather together. But health services traditionally have not gone north and south between Prescott-Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and Cornwall, especially with respect to the health services available in

Cornwall and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. It still is not the case.

I sincerely hope the District Health Council of Eastern Ontario works. Thank goodness for its new name. The Seaway Valley District Health Council name was quite a horrendous affront to geographical ears and minds. Whoever the hell designed that was really messed up.

This has now been corrected, but I think the move to Cornwall did not take into consideration the geographical entity of the five counties and the three ridings. I am still looking forward to having a move away from Cornwall to some place more geographically acceptable to the people of Prescott and Russell.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Such as Hawkesbury.

Mr. Poirier: Yes, so we do not have to go to the tropics of southern Ontario, like Cornwall. With that I end my statement.

Mr. Chairman: The minister has a time constraint today. Could we agree that we will meet from two to four? The minister has agreed that we will likely have to meet for longer than four hours next week.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I would be prepared to start earlier in the morning next week if desired.

Interjection: Six o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will be here if you want to start at six.

Mr. Chairman: We can decide that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will bring in the staff as required.

Mr. Chairman: We can decide that. However, this afternoon we will meet from two until four and will discuss drug benefits. Thank you.

The committee adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)

McCague, G. R., Chairman (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

From the Office of the Assembly:

Bailie, W. R., Chief Election Officer

Goodwin, J. D., Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Chief Election Officer

From the Ministry of Health:

Dyer, Dr. A. E., Deputy Minister





No. G-3

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Office of the Assembly

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, November 20, 1985
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)

Clerk: Decker, T.

From the Ministry of Health:

Burrows, A. R., Director, Drug Programs and Policy Branch

Dyer, Dr. A. E., Deputy Minister

Psutka, Dr. D. A., Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Services, Laboratories and Drug Programs

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, November 20, 1985

The committee resumed at 2:09 p.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 3603, emergency health services, laboratories and drug benefit program; item 4, drug benefits:

Hon. Mr. Elston: As agreed, Mr. Chairman, we will take a look at the Ontario Drug Benefit Act that is being proposed and provide some of the historical background for it.

Mr. Chairman: Is Dr. Psutka here?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Dr. Psutka was here just a second ago; or perhaps Al Burrows would like to provide some historical background to this if you wish.

Perhaps we could wait just another minute until we get everybody organized.

Al Burrows is with the drug benefit program in the Ministry of Health and perhaps can provide us with some of the historical background. I could then run over the highlights of the two acts and then we could open it to a few questions on more particular concerns the members might have.

Mr. Burrows: We would have to begin at the start of the 1970s and the advent of the Parcost program, which was brought in by the government of Ontario at that time to stimulate interest in consumer prices of drugs and to ensure the quality of generic drugs in Ontario was assured.

In the 1960s there had been considerable concern over the quality of generic drugs and also over the price of drugs in general. In that decade the federal patent law was amended to stimulate the introduction of more generic drugs. I will not go into detail about that but the availability of generic drugs became more pronounced.

Ontario, being responsible for certain aspects of health care and wishing to build on the federal initiative, introduced the Parcost program. Basically, it was a voluntary program to begin with.

The book that was published by the government to make consumers, and prescribers and pharmacists, dispensers of drugs, aware there were quality-assured generic drugs available, and single-source drugs available, and of the prices of those drugs, was called the Parcost

Comparative Drug Index. It was widely distributed in the province to all pharmacists and all prescribers, dentists and physicians, and became a resource book.

In 1972 the province introduced product selection legislation or what is commonly called drug substitution legislation, whereby pharmacists could select drugs designated as legally interchangeable. These would be different brands of the same generic drug. There were certain conditions put on what pharmacists could do. It was enshrined in what was called the Pharmacy Act. There was no Health Disciplines Act at that point.

The pharmacist was permitted to select product provided the physician did not declare, "No substitution." When the pharmacist selected, he had to choose from the list of interchangeable products, or the Parcost index as it was known.

There was also a limit put on how much the pharmacist could charge, the limit being a fee, which was negotiated between the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, and the maximum allowable cost of the product as published in the book, the lowest-priced in the pharmacists' inventory. In other words, if there were three brands of a drug and one was priced \$5, one was priced \$7 and one was priced \$8, and at that time the fee was approximately \$2, then if the lowest inventory was the one in the middle of the price range, the maximum amount charged would be the cost of that product—if it were \$8—plus \$2, or \$10.

In other words, there was an economic benefit that was designed to flow through to the consumer.

That legislation in its existing form still is with us and is now section 155 of the Health Disciplines Act. To my knowledge, there have been no substantive changes in that legislation since it was introduced in 1972.

In 1974 the government of Ontario introduced the Ontario drug benefit program as a social benefit. In the beginning, the only people eligible were those who were on some sort of financial assistance. In the case of seniors, it was those people who received payments from the guaranteed annual income system or guaranteed income supplements.

The eligibility was expanded in 1975 to cover all persons in Ontario over 65 years of age, and in 1976 the general welfare group, which had been basically administered through local municipalities and had policies that varied from one area to another. The policies were incorporated into the drug benefit program as well.

The basic shape of the program has not changed substantially since 1976. When the program was introduced in 1974, it basically covered a select group of people in need of financial assistance, and the changes to cover all those over 65 were introduced later. The eligible population has grown somewhat.

Going back a little bit in history to deal with one of the major issues leading up to the legislation introduced by the minister, we would have to go to 1971 where it was noted by at least one manufacturer that, under the Parcost index, it was possible for manufacturers to quote prices that were somewhat inflated, which might provide them with some marketing advantage. However, there was no information to indicate this was either a widespread or serious problem at that time.

However, two to three years after the introduction of the drug benefit program in 1974, it became apparent around 1977 that this fear was substantiated. We found from certain marketing information which was becoming more readily available that there was a considerable spread in the case of some multiple-source drugs between what was listed in the government publication and what was being charged in the marketplace.

I also should point out a fact I forgot to mention. The Parcost index still exists. When the drug benefit program was brought in, originally there was a separate drug benefit formula, which was the list of benefits. Because these publications really covered much of the same territory, it was decided to integrate the two publications. In essence, the schedule of benefits, or the drug benefit formula for the drug benefit program, and the Parcost index are one and the same. They have been one and the same since 1975. There is a relationship there to price.

Going back to the price-spread issue, it became apparent there was a growing problem. As a result, in 1977 the Minister of Health formed a group of three independent individuals. The group was headed by a gentleman by the name of Knowles Bailey, who I understand is no longer with us. These people were not associated with the ministry or with the pharmaceutical industry. They deliberated for several months and then provided a report. They found there was

a problem and they proposed a number of ways of resolving that problem.

If I may just in a nutshell describe it to you again. They found that if you had three products listed at \$5, \$8, and \$10, and they were all legally interchangeable, nobody wanted the \$5 price.

When the program was set up the theory was that everyone would want to be the lowest because they should get the business if there was true price competition. In fact, nobody wanted to be the lowest because the real acquisition cost was subject to competition. In fact, the \$5 product and the \$8 product may be sold for \$4. There was perhaps a difference of 10 or 20 cents or 50 cents between the two generic companies who were competing head on in price for the business.

In theory you would think the \$4 one would get the business, but the \$8 one would get the business, because from the drug benefit program he would get \$5. The drug benefit policy to this day is that product selection or product substitution is stimulated by the fact the government only reimburses for the lowest-price listed product.

Mr. Wildman: The drug benefit plan was getting the business.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Burrows: He could dispense the \$4 one and receive \$5 from the government. However, under the existing legislation, because he could charge the lowest price listed in his inventory, \$8 was charged because the pharmacist could legally charge the cash paying consumer up to \$8 plus the fee; but he could charge less. If the fee at that time was \$3, he could charge \$11 on a \$4 investment; he still could get \$5 plus the fee, say it was \$3 or \$8, from the government.

The Bailey committee identified that this had two effects. One was the government was paying more than the acquisition cost for the drug. In the example I quoted there was an additional dollar in the system, which meant that the real fee was not \$3 but \$4, and the cash paying customer could be disadvantaged by the system if the pharmacist charged up to that amount.

It also identified the manufacturer as being responsible for submitting inflated quotes because the \$4 price was the real price, but one person was quoting \$5 and someone else was quoting \$8. So the one quoting \$8 was quoting a price which was much above what was known to be the average selling price of the product and obviously obtained the business in that regard. A shared responsibility was identified there: the government for publishing the book, the manufacturer for quoting the inflated price and the

pharmacist for using the system to some advantage.

A number of recommendations were put forth by Bailey, one of which was that part of the problem was rooted in the fact that the negotiated basis between the ministry and the Ontario Pharmacists' Association for pricing these drugs was based on a package size that was not really representative of what was actually being sold in the marketplace.

In 1979, a change was negotiated for 36 high volume drugs. Instead of a price being quoted on the basis of a package of 100, it was based on a package of 1,000. To a large extent this eradicated the problem temporarily because the drugs on which the action was taken were those most affected by this so-called spread. However, it was not very long before the potential benefits of this had largely been overcome by changes in the marketplace.

For example, manufacturers found that while they might now have their product listed in 1,000, it was to their advantage to quote that price but make a deal whereby if you bought two 1,000s, you only paid an extra dollar above the 1,000 price. Consequently, there was a shift in the marketplace. Other methods were employed. The net result was that over time the advance made in 1979 was largely diminished. In about 1980 or 1981 it became evident that the trouble was starting to accelerate again.

One of the reasons for that was the increasing number of generic drugs available and the increasing cost of some single-source drugs, such as anti-ulcer medications. Where five or 10 years ago you were talking about \$5 or \$6 for 100, you were now seeing an average price of \$20 for 100. The magnitude of the spread suddenly became the focus of interest for many of the generic drug manufacturers. If they could engineer a fairly high price for themselves and yet offer spreads of perhaps \$10 on 100, this obviously was very attractive.

At that time, I suppose the one drug that first came to mind was cimetidine, the brand name Tagamet. It is a widely used anti-ulcer medication. The price in the formulary was somewhere around \$26. A price war developed in either early 1982 or 1983 where suddenly generics came on the market and started competing head on in price. The real price in the market dropped to the order of \$12 to \$13 while the listed price for the generics in the book was about \$20; so there was a very significant price spread.

Couple that with the volume of drug that was used in the drug benefit program, and the

magnitude of the problem related to an individual drug was far out of proportion to what it had been even one or two years earlier. With the advent of more and more competition for increasingly higher-priced drugs, there was a fairly rapid acceleration in the growth of this spread between 1982 and 1984. It went from being in the range of hundreds of thousands of dollars to several millions of dollars very quickly. In 1983, the government took action on cimetidine, the drug I mentioned, by fixing the price at a more realistic level in the July 1983 formulary.

One significant point to understand is that this manipulation of the listed price based on quotes from the manufacturers has two effects. First, if the manufacturer profits by the price-spread by selling the drug on the basis of how much can be obtained in the cash marketplace because of the way the system was set up, that would have an immediate impact on the consumer.

By a manufacturer not wanting to have the lowest price—in other words, wanting to compete with other manufacturers on the basis of spread—this had a somewhat delayed effect on the drug benefit program because the bottom line would start spiralling upwards as no one wanted to be that lowest price. So you had an immediate disadvantage for the cash-paying customer, which is not fulfilling the intent of the original legislation. Six months later, when it was time to plan a new formulary, quotations came in that ensured the bottom line rose which had a direct effect on government expenditure. That spiral has continued.

In July 1983, cimetidine action was taken. At the same time the cimetidine problem became apparent through our research of market statistics, we started to do a retroactive analysis of other drugs on the market to see if there was anything we could learn from that. We went out and got data that we had never seen before.

From that research, which took several months, it became evident that the problem was big and it was growing. The result was that in the fall of 1983 the ministry entered into intensive discussions with the pharmacy profession, represented by the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, and representatives of the drug manufacturing industry, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada and the Canadian Drug Manufacturers' Association representing the generic houses.

After many attempts to resolve the problem with lengthy discussions at many meetings and proposals to change the way the formulary and the product selection is listed, there was no

consensus. However, in February 1984 there was a three-part agreement. The first part was that 30 new high volume drugs would have their prices reduced to realistic levels.

The ministry had been unable to get some of the manufacturers to quote realistic prices, so an arrangement was agreed to where the pharmacists' association sought pricing information, brought it back to the ministry and, between those data sources, there was an agreement on price. So 30 high-volume drugs had their prices reduced. The net impact was in the order of a \$14-million reduction in drug cost expenditures.

Theoretically, all of the pharmacist's overhead, profit, etc., is incorporated in the professional fee and the cost of the drug is just that. As we have seen from my description, it is evident there was more than drug cost and fee. This spread was built into the drug cost as well.

2:30 p.m.

Because of the link and because there was no final solution and no ultimate settlement, in addition to rolling back the cost of the drugs there was a temporary adjustment in the fee from \$4.65 to \$5. That fee stands today. That is the maximum allowable fee which the pharmacist would receive from the government for drug benefit claims and that the pharmacist could charge the public under section 155 of the Health Disciplines Act or the product selection legislation.

The third part of the settlement, and perhaps the most important because it offers the opportunity of a permanent solution, was that a commission was established under Dean John Gordon of the school of business at Queen's University. Through most of 1983 he deliberated and gathered input from all interested parties and presented a report in the autumn of 1984 to the Minister of Health.

That report was widely publicized in the press. Most of the feedback the ministry received was in terms of describing and quantifying the problem. It was well documented and there was little disagreement on the basic issues. For example, everyone seemed to agree the linkage to the drug products selection legislation was a key component.

However, with respect to the recommendations offered by Commissioner Gordon, there was no consensus. There was agreement among the parties involved on the basic problem and some of the causes of the problem, but various interests dictated their own response to the recommendations and there was no consensus.

There were extensive discussions for a period of approximately eight months between the ministry and pharmacists as represented by not only the Ontario Pharmacists' Association but also by the Ontario College of Pharmacists; and, perhaps just as important or even more important, with the drug manufacturers who submit the prices, both innovative manufacturers and the generic drug manufacturers. Again, there was no consensus.

That brings us to June 1985 and the situation which was brought before the new minister. During the month of July there were extensive discussions with various parties. I assume from that point on the minister might like to continue.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was just reading the new price list of drugs that we estimated.

Mr. Burrows: Would you like me to carry on beyond July 1985?

Hon. Mr. Elston: You could just indicate the types of submissions that we had this time. I have a couple of examples here. One is cimetidine, which we could use as an example of how the system is working again. Then I can provide a bit of a highlight of what has happened since then.

Mr. Burrows: The situation that existed in July was that we had no resolution of the issues and the submissions for the July 1985 formulary, bearing in mind that historically we have produced two formularies or indexes a year: January 1 and July 1.

The system is that we go to industry, ask for submissions and sales data; we then take that price based on the principles originally negotiated with pharmacy and publish the book. In spite of all the publicity about the Gordon report and the dialogue that had taken place, the submissions did not reflect accurate prices from some manufacturers. Some manufacturers' submissions were well substantiated by market data and so forth.

To give you an example of the drug cimetidine I mentioned before, in January 1985 the bottom price in the formulary was \$9.67. Remember that had been rolled back from a couple of years before when we were paying \$20. The originator's brand was listed at \$30.73.

In the submissions for July 1985, while we had a submission of \$9.67 from one generic manufacturer, another generic manufacturer submitted a price of \$26. This was the same manufacturer who had been listed in a previous edition at \$9.67 and whose prices were substantiated by independent market information and data from other jurisdictions, notably those which paid acquisition costs. We were able to determine that the

real price was as low as \$6, give or take a few pennies.

If we had gone ahead and published that book, the manufacturer who submitted the \$26 price undoubtedly would have had the business—although the government price of \$9.67 would not change—because of the spread between the listed price of \$26 and the real price of roughly \$6. Obviously, this was a situation that could not be accepted.

It was complicated by the fact that the manufacturer who had submitted the low price brought an application before the Supreme Court at the end of June saying, "I have indications that other manufacturers have not done what I have done and I do not want to be disadvantaged, so would you please tell me that you are not going to print a book with inflated prices." The ministry responded with, "We have no intention of printing a book with inflated prices." The court action was postponed.

Mr. McKessock: Why do you feel they would buy the one with the inflated price when the bottom line is the main price, is it not? Why would they not buy the \$6 or the \$9 one instead of the \$26 one?

Mr. Burrows: Just suppose the real price, and our information was that the lowest in Canada was \$5.66, was the price in Ontario, the most competitive marketplace in the country, representing 40 per cent of the national market; that would mean most pharmacists—perhaps not the little pharmacist, the small volume pharmacist—would be able to buy at that price or something close to it.

Let us go back to the round figure again and say \$6. The fee is \$5. It has been since February, 1984. We would reimburse \$9.67 plus \$5, or \$14.67, for something he purchased for \$6. The government would be paying the same amount of money if it was the one quoted at \$9.67 or the one quoted at \$26. Granted, an inflated price: \$3 and change above the real acquisition cost.

The real problem is identified by the \$26 quote because of the way section 155 is worded and has come to be utilized in the marketplace. The \$26 one would get the business because in reality it cost the pharmacist no more than the \$6 product. He would get \$14.67 from the Ontario drug benefit program, the same as for the other product, but the cash customer, or the third party insurer, could under the law bill \$31. In other words, he could make \$31 on a \$6 payout.

That is why that company would get the business, because nothing would be lost under the drug benefit program, but he could also use

the loophole in the law as identified by the Gordon commission to make that additional profit of what—

Mr. McKessock: And charge the guy off the street the high price.

Mr. Burrows: Right. I also should point out that it would only be if he exercised the full ability he had under the law to charge that amount. He could charge less, and there is indication from surveys we have done ourselves, billings we receive and press reports, that not all pharmacists would bill that way; but the potential is there for the \$31 return.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is safe to say, for those of us who use that drug, \$14 is nothing close to what I have paid. It has been closer to \$30 most of the time.

Mr. Wildman: You said in passing that perhaps the small pharmacist might not add the same acquisition fee available to that pharmacist. Is that because they would be purchasing probably at a lower volume?

Mr. Burrows: That is one of the common causes. There could be a number. For example, products are basically sold through two routes: they are sold either direct by the manufacturer to the pharmacist or through a wholesaler. If they are sold through a wholesaler, obviously the wholesaler is in business to make money and adds an upcharge, normal business practice.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Does this wholesaler then buy in bulk supposedly so that these small pharmacists could get a better deal? Is that the idea?

Mr. Burrows: Yes, that frequently happens, and in the case of many drugs that helps. The bulk purchasing advantage that offers means the independent can buy at a price comparable to the chains, for example. However, that happens with high-volume drugs; in medium- to low-volume drugs it may not be possible to do that.

Let us suppose the pharmacist in a small town has a physician who does not routinely prescribe the products of a particular manufacturer, but that manufacturer traditionally distributes via the direct method. He may not have enough volume to buy directly, meet the minimum order requirements of that manufacturer. So he may have no option but to buy through the wholesaler. In this case, his acquisition costs would be higher because that wholesale upcharge would be in there.

Mr. Wildman: Particularly if that pharmacist is competing with a doctor who dispenses for himself; that is another matter.

Mr. McKessock: Just to go a little further, is there anything to stop the druggist from charging the person who comes in off the street whatever price he wants to set? You speak of the top level acquisition cost being \$26. Supposing it was only \$15, could he still not charge him \$26 if he wanted to do so?

Mr. Burrows: In the case of the example cited, that is designated as legally interchangeable under section 155 of the Health Disciplines Act. Where the drug was written for the generic brand or where the pharmacist had substituted the generic brand for the brand name Tagamet, in either of those instances, no matter what happened the pharmacist could not legally charge more than the maximum allowable amount, which in the case of that drug was \$31.

If the pharmacist did not product select, in other words use the brand name product, and it was not a voluntarily Parcost participating pharmacy—and there are virtually none left in the province—then there is no limit on what the pharmacist could charge. It would be whatever the traffic would bear.

Now there is a professional control on that under the Health Disciplines Act where the Ontario College of Pharmacists has the ability to determine whether a professional charge for a service is appropriate. That would be one element of protection, but there would be no fixed limit on what you could charge in that situation. This law applies only to interchangeable drugs and where that act of substituting a drug takes place.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The last point Mr. Burrows made was the item which raised the newspaper article about the effectiveness of the college in enforcing the standards of Ontario legislation. I have forgotten the date of the correspondence—it was about the end of September we started writing letters on that. Whether or not they wished to enforce section 155 became a bit of a public issue. Since then we have, with the college, asked for an investigation. The college has been investigating the enforcement of section 155, by requirement, as to charges or fee.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I just have one question. When the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary was published before 1978, there was one price listed, correct? I forget when it was changed, but it was changed by one of the ministers at one point, was it not?

Dr. Dyer: No, there was never one price listed. There was always a variety of prices listed in the formulary. There were two books published at one time, and at that time the drug

benefit book listed one price, yes. But there were two books. One was the Parcost book—market price use—and the other was the drug benefit book.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: So what was the impact of going to one book and the drug benefit book having whatever number of prices listed? Did that add to the problem or does that just affect cash-paying customers?

Dr. Psutka: Now there are prices listed after every product, but the maximum allowable cost is definitely there. In other words, it is a combined book. So the Ontario drug benefit plan continues to pay the low price; and whether there has been an impact on the two books or not, I do not think so.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: But your problem is whether the low price is the actual acquisition price or relates to the acquisition price.

Dr. Psutka: As Al Burrows was pointing out with cimetidine 300 milligram tablets, the low price of \$9.67 listed in July was the quote we came in with as the lowest price. The lowest price we have been able to determine, using market data from across Canada, was \$5.66.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Why would we publish anything other than the lowest price submitted?

Mr. Burrows: That is proposed in the—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I know, but why did we do that.

Dr. Dyer: That was because of section 155 in terms of the marketplace. Publishing more than one price had no effect on the drug benefit. It was only in the application of section 155, which allowed the pharmacist to dispense other than the lowest if he did not have it in his inventory. When he substituted he could choose any one of them and the price that prevailed was the price of the product he chose. It was more flexible than drug benefit.

Dr. Psutka: I think it is important to note that we keep forgetting about the fact that the innovator, the company that invented the product, was listing at \$30.73. If your physician had written down the innovator's name, which was Tagamet, and you had gone to the drug store and the pharmacist had not substituted, then you would have been legally charged \$30.73 plus whatever his usual and customary fee for the cash-paying marketplace, which could be anywhere up to \$36.50 at this point in time.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I suppose what we could do too, just to indicate the situation from information we have, is ask Al or Dennis to discuss what

is described at the top as attachment III and then attachment IV. These are samples of or a comparison of Ontario prices with Saskatchewan prices in July 1983-84. Let us take a couple of samples for two or three drugs and compare what Ontario prices were with Saskatchewan, more or less to indicate the trends in Saskatchewan and those which have been appearing in Ontario as a run-up to a review of the legislation as proposed. Would you like to do that, Al, please?

Mr. Burrows: Look at attachment III. There are a lot of columns and figures on this page, but basically what it shows is a listing of 33 high-volume drugs. These are the drugs whose prices were rolled back in February 1984 in the agreement I referred to earlier. This is an attempt, for comparative purposes, to look at Saskatchewan and Ontario experiences over a period of time, trying to eliminate the influence of volume by looking at the estimated 1985 volume and what that means in terms of dollars.

If you can look at the first one, maybe I can carry through there. It is propranolol, 40 milligrams—the brand name is Inderal—a drug primarily used in the treatment of cardiovascular disease. We would estimate using this year, under the drug benefit program, 235,277 bottles of 100 tablets. If you add two zeros to the end, that will give you the total number of units, or 23 million tablets, a very substantial number.

In July 1983, before the February 1984 solution, the price listed in the Ontario formulary was \$10.49 per hundred. That was the maximum allowable cost for all brands of interchangeable propranolol.

If we look at Saskatchewan in January 1984, we will see that their price was \$3.82. If you go back to the Ontario column, you will see the result of the initiative taken in February 1984, where the Ontario price is \$4.32, still slightly higher than Saskatchewan, but very much lower than the \$10.49 we had been paying.

2:50 p.m.

It is then interesting to look at what happened in the Saskatchewan formulary published for July 1985. The price actually went down to \$3.62. In other words, the gap between the February 1984 Ontario listed price and the July 1985 Saskatchewan price was not staying the same, it was growing.

If we look at Ontario and the maximum allowable cost for July 1985, which would have applied had the book been published, it was \$4.18. Again, there was a slight dropoff. However, if you look at the next column, that being the price submitted by a particular manu-

facturer, in the case of the spread that was identified earlier indications are that the price was back up at the level of July 1983.

If we look at the difference between Ontario and Saskatchewan's maximum allowable costs weighted for the volume, for that drug it would mean we would be paying approximately \$132 million more for drug costs than Saskatchewan.

Mr. Dean: Million or thousands?

Mr. Burrows: That is thousands. A better example perhaps is cimetidine, which is the second one on the list and the one I talked about earlier.

Dr. Psutka: Might I interject? Despite what you see there with Saskatchewan having a very low price, the lowest price we can find for Canada at that time was \$3.37 a hundred; so there are even lower prices than are listed here that are available in bulk purchasing.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I might also say Saskatchewan has a different system to ours. It is considerably different. It has a standing-offer contract type of program and is not applicable word for word with what we are doing in Ontario.

What we are doing is illustrating trends in the costs of medications, so the numbers are being compared. The trends of those numbers is what is extremely important. In addition, Dennis has provided you with information about the lowest cost in Canada. We can give you that information as well.

Mr. Wiseman: We are kind of painting—and I am not on the side of the pharmaceutical firms, but I have heard it said a lot of research goes into development of a drug. I would not want us to just sit here and listen—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Perhaps I could just address that.

Mr. Wiseman: If I could just enlarge on that: I know once a drug gets on the market and has been researched by someone who has come up with it and has a lot of research costs, people copy it who have not had that original research to do. The poor bugger who researched it and everything maybe comes in at that \$26, whereas the others have not had that cost.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Could I respond to that right now.

Mr. Wiseman: How are we addressing that so they are not the bad guys?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Concerning the issue about the \$26 listing, that person is a generic manufacturer. He is the one who has not done any original research. With respect to the item, cimetidine,

that was quoted, the \$30.73 price is being charged by the innovator, that is the person who did all the research. We list the price that is submitted for Smith Kline, which is Tagamet.

Mr. Wiseman: I am just thinking of the businessman. The government does not give the money to those people to find these drugs, to develop them. If we do not give them a chance to recoup some of that money before others jump in, copy them and manufacture them at much lower costs, then there is no money in it for them..

Hon. Mr. Elston: That item is what is being discussed by the Eastman commission. That is the federal side of things in terms of licensing, but it has nothing to do with the prices that are submitted here. The federal government determines the interchangeables.

Mr. Wiseman: Correct me then: when you ask a pharmaceutical company to quote the people who developed it are going to want to sell some to Ontario as well as the other provinces. They cannot break that off until they get—

Mr. Wildman: The Eastman commission is looking at how to do that. Right now the innovators do have a certain number of years in which they will have a monopoly before the generics can get into the business.

Mr. Wiseman: Do the innovators have a monopoly now?

Dr. Dyer: Oh, yes. The federal government issues what is called a compulsory licence. Until they do that, the innovator has an exclusive market. The average length of time an innovator has an exclusive market in Canada for a single source drug is about five to eight years.

As a matter of fact, Valium had 10 years before a competitor was granted a compulsory licence. Then the compulsory licensed competitor generic firm got into the field. This period of time is the period that the innovators are given before the compulsory licence; the federal government decides on some basis the length of time. Eastman is looking into whether the length of time is valid and whether the royalties charged are valid, etc. That question is a federal question.

Then the generic firm is given a compulsory licence. The purpose of that is to get lower cost drugs into the marketplace.

Dr. Psutka: As Dr. Dyer has just stated, the patent on the drug Valium, which was invented by Hoffmann-La Roche, a very large multinational, just ran out in the United States. I would guess they had the patent for 17 to 20 years. Until it ran out this year they were charging \$24 a

hundred, I think, and now the lowest price for that in Canada is 17 cents a hundred.

Mr. Wildman: They did all right.

Dr. Psutka: They did all right.

Dr. Dyer: Part of the reason compulsory licences were entered into here is that it shortened the patent period on the basis that very little actual research is done in Canada on many of these drugs. Most of them are international. The research money is spent outside of Canada. They bring it in, often in final dosage form. They bring it in in tablet form and sell it here. There is no investment made in Canada for that kind of drug. The question is how long should they receive protection?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is the subject of the report of Professor Eastman to the federal government. They are making a determination as to what steps should be taken with respect to the mandatory licensing question. That has something to do with the drug industry and that will have an impact on the Ontario drug benefit plan depending on how long mandatory licensing is held back. In terms of what we are doing here, that is a separate issue.

Currently, we are listing prices in our formulary for the originator and for the generics under the January formulary.

Mr. Wiseman: When you ask for quotes from the pharmaceutical people, at what level is the quote signed? Is it at the president's level, or someone with the highest authority to indicate this is a legitimate price and not some junior person that is working it up?

Mr. Burrows: The company is asked to identify who it would like us to send the quotation material to. It is up to the company to decide who is a responsible signing officer, but it must be a person in authority and he signs a definite statement. It is signed and dated. Usually, it is at the level of the director of marketing or above. In many cases it is the chief operating executive of the company, but it is left to the company to decide.

When the prices are confirmed, it is not a single confirmation because that had posed some problems for us in the early years of the program. It is a double confirmation. When we have received the price we then write back to the company, to that executive, and ask him to doubly confirm that price. Based on that double confirmation the price is established.

There is a protective mechanism and it is not at the clerical level. Most companies are well aware of the significance of prices in the Ontario

formulary as it relates to the national marketplace and take great care in preparing those pricing submissions.

3 p.m.

Mr. Wiseman: If you do that and you run across one like the example you gave of a spread between \$5.66 actual and \$26 plus, no doubt you get back to that person, or to the president of the company, and ask, "Why are you so far off base?" Can you take the pharmaceutical companies off the list under the system if they are inflating their prices time after time? Have you done that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is the key question. Everything worked okay when there was a relative agreement to abide by gentlemen's rules. However, we had no power to take them off the list when we found one person quoted the high price. We have to list him when he submits. If he wants to undo the system, we cannot take him off under our current legislative scheme.

Mr. Wiseman: Is it one pharmaceutical company in particular that is constantly doing this?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is one in this example. That particular company has done it with a number of drugs.

Mr. Wiseman: Sometimes as a government, and perhaps the rest of you agree, we penalize everybody for one bad apple. I do not know if they are all doing it or if—

Hon. Mr. Elston: All companies were doing it. However, one decided to do it to the last degree, almost to the last penny it could squeeze out of the spread. There would be an extremely high spread.

Mr. Wiseman: Are you telling me the ministry does not have any teeth to cut that pharmaceutical company off at the present time?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is absolutely right. There is no legislation.

Mr. Wildman: I do not want to skew the discussion. These gentlemen may want to go on. The minister wants to go on, however, I would like to get some information. You are using the figures from Ontario and Saskatchewan. How does the small, independent pharmacist in Saskatchewan benefit from the system? How is that firm, which probably cannot purchase in high volume, protected in the Saskatchewan system—individually and on its own?

Dr. Dyer: I can answer that. Saskatchewan has a universal plan. Everybody is in the plan. They ask for quotations. It is almost like a

tendering process. It is a standing-offer agreement. They say what the price will be. If they accept the product, the Saskatchewan government will inform the pharmacist that the product is available in Saskatchewan at a certain price.

Mr. Wildman: There is no chance to substitute one for the other. How does that protect the small pharmacist in Saskatchewan?

Dr. Dyer: The small pharmacist can buy it at that price. It is a standing-offer agreement.

Mr. Wildman: Does everyone have the same acquisition price, no matter what volume he purchases?

Dr. Dyer: That is right.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Can you carry that over within your proposals? One of the major concerns of small pharmacists is that they are not going to have the same acquisition cost. The Ontario Pharmacists' Association suggested to me, when we met the other day, we should be looking at the lowest available price.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is one of the suggestions. They have not told you they wish to have a markup percentage, about 22 per cent or 22.5 per cent, in addition to the lowest available price. That is a different system to the one with the lowest available price all by itself.

Ontario has one difficulty regarding the taking of a standing-offer contract. The person or company that wins the contract in Saskatchewan has the exclusive right to provide the drug in Saskatchewan for that time period. If we had a standing-offer contract in Ontario, we would put a company out of business if it did not win that first contract. This is because of the volumes we are talking about. In other words, we would eliminate a number of our businesses.

Mr. Wildman: Would we not have very low prices then?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We would have low prices for one year. We would end up having a standing-offer contract for one year or one six-month period. We would then see all the people falling out of the market, because Ontario is the host province for a number of generic manufacturers. I have said this to the public a number of times. The Saskatchewan system is useful and helpful because it tells us about the trend in drug pricing, but the manner in which they are acting and reacting in their marketplace is not appropriate to the conditions here in Ontario.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: How do we protect the small pharmacist, then? That is the major concern of the members of the Legislature. I was

going to say is was the concern of other people, but I am not sure everyone else has the whole picture. Is there any way of doing something with lowest available price that would help the small pharmacist?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Dr. Psutka may want to respond. What will happen in addition as we go down the road to printing our list is that, when people are able to analyse the new formula and whatever, some of the uncertainty will be shaken out. Dr. Psutka will answer the specific question.

Dr. Psutka: One thing we have not pointed out is that the formula put forward by the Ontario Pharmacists' Association the last time we negotiated with them was that the best volume price was the lowest price available in similar quantity in Canada, as long as it was available to any purchaser in the province in like quantity. To do that we would literally have to force manufacturers to sell at that price, and at that point we would really be interfering with manufacturers. Perhaps the minister may want to comment on that.

The other thing we keep forgetting is that in Saskatchewan they have a two-tiered dispensing fee, which is another way of protecting the small pharmacist, inasmuch as the fee is higher to a certain level, at which time the economies of scale come into place and the fee starts to go down.

Mr. Wildman: The more you dispense, the less you get.

Dr. Psutka: That is right.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I can understand the concern that in a small town in an isolated area that has one pharmacist, he might go out of business; that is a legitimate concern. In urban areas where we have a large number of pharmacists, some of them small, is there an argument that we have too many pharmacists or too many drug stores and that, because artificial profits have been built into the system, some of that has to be shaken out?

Dr. Psutka: It is a difficult question. I cannot comment.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That will happen, will it not? If you are taking literally millions of dollars out of the system through the 30-day rule elimination and through changes in the price structure, then obviously somebody is going to lose a job. If there is not as much money in the system, there is going to be less to share with both employees and owners of drug stores.

Hon. Mr. Elston: One of the things we have done, though, is to set up a structure whereby we will be able to print what is a realistic price in our

formulary. For the pharmacists who are not able to buy it at the price listed in the formulary, we will provide the option of applying for the actual acquisition cost. We will be able to verify that cost from their information. It will be a reimbursement for that drug either at our listed price or at the actual acquisition cost.

In the situation we have now, some pharmacists are not reimbursed for the total cost of each drug and they are losing money on the dispensing. We will ensure that they will not lose money on that drug. This is one of the things we have in mind to help the independent pharmacists. It would take care of some of the difficulties they have with respect to volume buying.

In addition, one of the things that I have suggested for consideration, and that will of course be part of our fee negotiation, is the question of whether the OPA thinks it might be realistic to talk about a two-tiered system of dispensing fees: one for a lower-volume dispensing pharmacist and another for those who are higher. When you hit a plateau, for instance, it could be a reduced rate.

3:10 p.m.

We have a number of things in mind. What is most upsetting to me is the fact that a lot of the uncertainty could have been taken away from this whole issue had we not been prevented on September 16, by litigation, from printing a new formulary that would have provided pharmacists in the province with three things.

It would have given pharmacists an expanded list of drugs that they could dispense to their clients without getting special authorizations, and special authorizations are a bit of a pain for pharmacists, they tell me, because they have all these stacks of cards and all that sort of stuff.

It would have reimbursed pharmacists for the 10 per cent federal excise tax that was levied by the federal government recently on a number of items that are listed under our formulary. Of course, right now under the current January 1 formulary the pharmacists are not being reimbursed for those.

In addition to that, we could have provided an idea of the realistic prices that would be the trademark of the new formulary. This would have adjusted some of the unrealistic prices that were submitted to us for the July 1 formulary.

One never knows where all the impetus for litigation comes from, but I can tell you that the net result of that litigation and the fact that an injunction was placed against the Ministry of Health to prevent it from implementing a new formulary—because, as an earlier question point-

ed out, we did not have legislative authority to do the listing—was that it has created a high degree of uncertainty and difficulties with respect to coming to grips with negotiating a dispensing fee and it has also eliminated, I think, a desire on my part and on that of the ministry officials to arrive at a mutually agreeable and co-operative and fair system.

It has postponed us. We cannot move, for instance, if the legislation we have proposed is not passed, and we cannot implement a new formulary. That is because a formulary, although it is a book, really is nothing more than a regulation, and it must be passed as a regulation. To pass that regulation in the manner that will establish realistic prices for drug benefit and other customers in the province, we must have new legislation. Until the new legislation comes out, that injunction stands.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is the Ontario Pharmacists' Association accurate when it says the present dispensing fee was set, and has been set over the years, keeping in mind that profits were made from the price spread? They say that the dispensing fee has been artificially low because of the price-spread profits.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not the lowest one across the country. We could give you a list of them, but I can tell you that what has happened when the fee was set—and you will see this at various times along the history that was given by Dr. Dyer—the fee would be set and then negotiated, and after that the spread would creep back in. It is very difficult to control the spread question, even though the fee may have been negotiated keeping in mind some of the differences in drug prices.

I am going to go through a list of these dispensing fees in a minute, but what has happened is that when the fees have been negotiated, you establish the fee, and with the next formulary that comes in, the price spread goes up. Of course, when the July 1 printing time came, the prices that were submitted to us caused us considerable difficulty. That is the real problem.

The other side of it, which we really have not addressed, is that when the person who quoted \$26 did so, he understood that for the purposes of the cash-paying market, a pharmacist would order his product solely. That means that his competitor would receive no orders whatsoever, and it would drive that fellow out of the market.

This was a very heavy marketing advantage and a very heavy tool against one's competitors. That is why we were sued again by another

generic and taken to court on the basis that we not print that inflated price. You can take a look at the Ministry of Health. Sitting there in July, we were being sued if we did not print; we were being sued if we did print. We wanted to print and we still got sued. It was, as a result, an indication that there is no legislative background to provide a manageable and controllable system of providing services to the people in Ontario. That is really the background.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I just want to—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Okay. Then remind me to tell you what the dispensing fees are.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I want to hear that too, but the proposal for a dispensing fee in the legislation allows you to set or to negotiate the dispensing fee provincially. Are there other provinces that provide some method for a third party to set the dispensing fee if you cannot come to an agreement with the OPA? Is it entirely fair, because you have all the cards? There is not much point in the negotiations if in the end you can set the fees. Was an arbitration system discussed as one of the components of the proposals?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Dr. Psutka, do you happen to know about any other jurisdictions, for the sake of discussion?

Dr. Psutka: I would have to look through the legislation from each of the provinces, but I would like to point out that the fees vary in each province: British Columbia, for example, is about \$6.15 right now. Quebec is \$3.62, did you say? We are at \$5 right now. We are not the lowest in Canada.

The other thing you must not forget is that each province has varying rules as to the amount dispensed. Here in Ontario, under the Ontario drug benefit plan, we have a 30-day supply rule in force right now, which is, in effect, 34 days, whereas other provinces have 100 days or dispense as written. If you factor that in, our fee is by no means the lowest.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Can I just run down the list of dispensing fees? As the deputy was pointing out to me as well, the regulations will put into place the manner in which negotiations can be finalized, and if there were disputes, we could consider changes in the regulations to include arbitration or whatever you might want to suggest.

But let me go over this. New Brunswick covers people over 65, those who have cystic fibrosis or who are on welfare; the fee there is at \$6. Prince Edward Island is at \$5.70 for people who are on welfare or who have diabetes, but

they have a 60-day prescription fee as opposed to 30 days here in Ontario.

So if you are on a long-term maintenance drug here in Ontario and you get ODB, you go every 30 days to get filled; in Prince Edward Island it is 60 days. So for 60 days they get \$5.70; here in Ontario it is \$5 currently for 30 days. In Quebec it is \$4.62 for the first 20,000 prescriptions. That covers people over 65 and those on welfare. This indicates that there is no time limit there: dispense as written.

Mr. Wildman: They have two-tier dispensing fee, then?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. Over 20,000 prescriptions they are at \$3.62. In Ontario we are at \$5 for people over 65 and on welfare, and it is on a 30-day basis. In Manitoba it is \$5.15 for home care; they have miscellaneous categories involved, and there is no 30-day rule.

Saskatchewan has a two-tier system, \$5.30 for all residents; everybody is covered in Saskatchewan. It is a \$5.30 dispensing fee. Over 21,000 prescriptions it is \$4.80, and there is no limit on how often it is written. So whatever the doctor writes, they dispense it at either \$5.30 or \$4.80.

In Alberta the rate is \$5.80 for people over 65 and on welfare, and there is no 30-day rule. In British Columbia they have a \$5.94 average dispensing fee for people over 65 and cardholders, and there is no 30-day dispensing fee.

So you can see the number of fees there, but at the same time you can see that we have differing amounts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, none of which require 30-day dispensing.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Ontario is the only province with that.

Dr. Dyer: In British Columbia, for example, they have eight prescriptions per year versus 12 here. That is a comparison of the number of prescriptions for senior citizens.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think that is not quite right. What we understood was that the average number of prescriptions for seniors in Ontario was actually 23, whereas a study comparing people in Puget Sound Health Measure Organization, in Washington state, indicated they had eight prescriptions for senior citizens, so you can see the difference. The average number in Puget Sound Health Measure Organization is eight; average prescriptions here for seniors is 23, and to a large extent that reflects 30-day prescribing.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It might also reflect the method of health care delivery, and Health Measure Organization is a part of it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They are designed, of course, to provide positive impacts if they cut down in their access. But certainly if you compare, I do not think our people are any less healthy than that group. But we have the 30-day dispensing rule and we do have a larger number of prescriptions.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Wiseman: That may bear out my discussion with a colleague who was a pharmacist. He said at one time there were elderly people going to more than one doctor, having drugs prescribed, taking them home and collecting them by the bottleful. By prescribing for more than 30 days you might get into that. At the present time, as Mr. Burrows was saying, certain people get 12 a year; the minister said 23.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Twenty-three on average.

Mr. Wiseman: That shows they must be going to more than one doctor.

Hon. Mr. Elston: A lot of people have more than one drug.

Mr. Wiseman: But I worry as a diabetic. My doctor, for whatever reason, will not give me prescriptions for more than 30 days, because he wants me to go in and have further blood work to see whether there are any side effects. I think you are going to run into problems—

Mr. Wildman: That relates to what my colleague was saying about the method of health care and its delivery.

Mr. Wiseman: I think you are going to run into some problems with the general practitioner who wants to have a look at the person and does not want him to go for long periods because—

Hon. Mr. Elston: All that we have required is that the pharmacist dispense as is written. The physician, if he wants you to get 30 days, will write "30 days only"; if he wants you to have 120 days, he will write "120 days," and the prescription will be filled as written. But it will not be a 120-day prescription written by your physician that will be dispensed 30 days at a time.

Mr. Wiseman: The other thing is that it appears, as you were giving the cost of dispensing prescriptions and the numbers that we have here in Ontario, we are not the lowest, but we are certainly not the highest.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. Wiseman: If you were to take another 50 cents across the board—they have not had a raise for three years—and take into consideration that there seem to be some problems, the ministry is

saying it would be \$50 million. From what I hear from the pharmacists, the figure is much lower than that, something like \$17 million. They say that the ministry, for what it is worth, has not verified its \$50 million, but they can verify something a lot less than that.

What if you were to take 50 cents per prescription drug and multiply that out with the number of drugs dispensed? Somebody mentioned here earlier—I think it was the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke)—that the pharmacists said that the reason our fee for pharmacists was low at this time and had not been raised is that there was some slippage—maybe not as great as you are showing here with these, but there was some—and we realized it, they realized it and that is why you had not raised the fee.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, that is not right. In fact, the reason it has not—

Mr. Wiseman: What would 50 cents come to? Would it bring it up close to what the slippage is?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is 29 million prescriptions a year for ODB, is it not?

Dr. Psutka: It is 27 million.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is 27 million prescriptions at 50 cents. That is about \$14 million.

Mr. Wiseman: That would come fairly close to what the slippage is.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is not slippage, though. The auditor's report did not talk about slippage; it talked about a build-in in the spread that is not reasonable.

Mr. Wiseman: What I am getting at is that if the build-in is \$17 million or something close to that, and if you multiply the number of prescriptions by 50 cents, you are almost in the ball park, are you not? All I know is from stores and, in the ones I own, you either pay people up front or they find a way of getting it. If you do not pay a person a reasonable amount to live on, he is going to find a way to get what he would like.

Hon. Mr. Elston: At the time we negotiated fees—say in February 1984—when we adjusted Propranolol from \$10.49 to an agreed-upon reasonable price of \$4.32, the dispensing fee was \$4.65. Take a look at what happens. The cost, as submitted to us for July 1985, was \$10.50. It has gone right back up again. On the basis of the reasonable negotiation of a fee at a time when the cost of the drug was \$4.32, that just does not stand up. At least, your analysis does not stand up, because the spread has built back in there already without even adjusting the dispensing fee. Had we increased it by 50 cents on top of the dispensing fee already there, we would be talking

about a cost increase not of 50 cents, but of almost \$7.

Mr. Wiseman: We find there may be one bad apple at the pharmaceutical end whom you want to get at, who counts high in his or her prices.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is relative now, because there is a spread. In each of the generic prices submitted, there is one apple that may have been somewhat worse off than others.

Mr. Wiseman: I took, from what you said, that there was one constantly high whom you could not get at to penalize.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, constantly high, but there is spread in all of them. And everybody else benefits from that.

Mr. Wiseman: We have been kicking around this one example of \$26 compared with \$9.67. We have been surmising that there are a lot of druggists out there who are using the \$26 so they can get at the cash customer off the street. What statistics do you have to back up the idea that is widely done?

People who listen to what is going on in here might think a druggist in a town I represent, for instance, is ripping off the cash customer. I know a lot of them personally. They have to live in that town and if they were caught doing that once, their business would drop right off.

How many people did you survey? How many did you find who were ripping off people? If it is only an isolated few, and we are lumping all the pharmacists into that group and giving them a bad name, we should know about it here today, in case someone from the press goes back and says it is a widespread thing when it is not.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Two points: I want you to understand the real impact of a pharmacist opting for a \$26 generic drug as opposed to the \$9.67 one. The impact from a market standpoint on ODB is zero. We reimburse at \$9.67. The impact on the cash-paying customer, however, is that under existing legislation he can be charged the \$26. The really tough side of this has nothing to do with the pharmacist. The really tough fallout concerns the drug manufacturer who quotes \$26 and his competitor who does not. That puts this guy out of business.

Mr. Wiseman: Yes, but you are wondering about the druggist picking that one with the idea of making more money.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The advantage is that you get a bigger amount of money. The way we list it in our formulary and the way section 155 is written, allow that advantage to be picked up by the pharmacist.

Mr. Wiseman: But for us to accuse all pharmacists because they could possibly make that—what have you done with your inspectors to specify the numbers out there who have done that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: They were not doing anything illegal. The thing they were doing illegally, and this was admitted by the Ontario College of Pharmacists, was using the section 155 legislation to charge the \$26 price level.

Mr. Wiseman: If they wanted to.

Hon. Mr. Elston: If they wanted to. In addition, they were charging a dispensing fee above that allowed by section 155. If you substituted under section 155, you should have used the ODB dispensing fee. The problem became that most of them used a dispensing fee above that. The college of pharmacists has said that 80 per cent of the pharmacists in Ontario were violating that section of the Health Disciplines Act.

Mr. Wiseman: The pharmacists said that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The college of pharmacists was quoted in the newspaper article. They said they knew 80 per cent of their members were violating section 155 of the Health Disciplines Act. They admitted that with respect to the dispensing fee that was charged.

Mr. Wildman: They argued they were justified.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They argued they were, but that is a violation.

Mr. Burrows: I have a comment, and this is from the Gordon commission report, which is not from the ministry and is not from pharmacy. Most parties who were involved in the study agreed that it was probably the most extensive investigation of the problem that had been done to date and that it was objective. Here is a statement on page 47 of that report:

3:30 p.m.

"The precise extent and magnitude of the practice of inflated pricing is unknown. However, if the Ministry of Health, protected as it is by maximum allowable costs for paying for the lowest-priced product, estimates that it paid out at least \$14.5 million in 1983 because of spread pricing, it can reasonably be estimated that non-drug-benefit consumers paid out considerably more than that in the same year." This is a third party reporting.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Let me indicate where that \$14 million came from. That partly came through the auditor's report, which some of us read and

dealt with last spring. The \$14 million was discussed in the public accounts committee with Doug Archer, the Provincial Auditor, and was considered to be a safe estimate.

Mr. Wildman: Are you saying a conservative estimate?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not always use that word.

He and his staff felt that it was a safe and justifiably placed number that could have been put much higher. Dean Gordon, of course, has picked up on that and we have gone on from there to indicate that the impact is at least as great in the cash-paying market, if not greater.

The fact remains that what is recognized about the way the drugs were listed by us was an unfair practice of establishing price. Everybody wanted us to do something about it. I met with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, the generic drug manufacturers, the originator manufacturers, the independent pharmacists, the independent, independent pharmacists.

I talked with an awful lot of people. Despite what some people have been telling the public, I have been talking and negotiating and discussing and asking for ideas on this legislation since July 1. I did not know about this on June 27, but I certainly knew shortly after that.

All the groups I talked with wanted us to come up with a system that would address the unfairness and establish reasonable prices. I am still convinced we could have dealt a real blow to all the uncertainty if we had been allowed to go ahead and print our formulary in September.

The injunction prevented us from changing the January 1, 1985, formulary, as well as preventing us from putting together a new dispensing fee. The dispensing fee is nothing more than another part of our regulation but the court injunction says we cannot change the January 1 regulation. If we were allowed to do that, we could change items and the whole injunction would be useless.

In the long run, people wanted us to do something about it and to recognize that the prices were unfair. Pharmacists I speak to—and I am still speaking to pharmacists and they are still speaking to me—recognize there are problems and they want something done about it.

Mr. Wiseman: My pharmacists tell me there was an agreement just about worked out with the previous government—

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is not true.

Mr. Wiseman: —and Al and the lads.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Allan was in Environment at the time.

Mr. Wiseman: Whoever it was, that was scrapped after. What is the story behind that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Gérard Raymond was the deputy minister. He tells me there was no agreement just about worked out anywhere. You might want to discuss it with the last Minister of Health, your colleague the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes). There was no agreement just about worked out between the ministry and the pharmacists.

Mr. Wiseman: My pharmacists had the idea that there was an agreement the government seemed to be happy with.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I would go so far as to indicate my information is that there was a thorough discussion of the issue in one cabinet meeting just prior to June 26. It is my understanding from information that is available and floating around that the consensus in that cabinet meeting was no go.

Mr. Wiseman: I was not privy to that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No. I was not actually there either.

Mr. Wiseman: I am going by what I was told by my pharmacists.

Hon. Mr. Elston: A number of pharmacists have been told that I have not been talking or negotiating or making contact with the OPA and others. That is not correct either. We have a long list of times when we were discussing this and receiving input.

Mr. Wiseman: Have you had any meetings with them since November 7 or 8?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That evening I was a guest at a reception they held, and I spoke at length with a number of them on the night I introduced the legislation.

Mr. Wiseman: You met with the association?

Hon. Mr. Elston: They were all members of the association. Mr. Belitz was there and Mr. Franceschini was there. They are fairly key players in the discussions. They have been in to the ministry as well.

Dr. Dyer: We had discussions with consumer groups the day the legislation was introduced. We had them in, and we had the Ontario College of Pharmacists, the OPA and the drug manufacturers. They were all in on the same day and we went over the details with them.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have also met officially with the college since then. We have been waiting now for the response from OPA with

respect to legislation. We are awaiting that. I met with some 12 or 15 members of district 13 of the OPA Monday night.

I am meeting with all kinds of people. I was speaking to a pharmacist from Ottawa this afternoon who is going to send me some information via the mail if he gets it ready. If not, he will send it up with my colleague the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Grandmaitre) to be here Monday morning. I have been talking to a lot of them, whether in groups or individually. I have had an awful lot of discussions.

Mr. Wiseman: I do not often agree with David, but there is one area you should look at, and that is to have a third party negotiate the fees and not do it arbitrarily—

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no intention on my part to come in and say, "It is going to be \$5.10," or anything like that. That is not the way we are proceeding.

Mr. Villeneuve: I am quite concerned over what I hear today. I hope it is not the beginning of the government becoming the manufacturer and dispenser of drugs. My question revolves primarily around how many and whom you spoke to within the pharmaceutical trade. I believe you have answered that reasonably well.

I am still very perplexed about why we are getting all sorts of correspondence, phone calls and telegrams. Have you not been listening? Have they not been getting through? What has happened?

Hon. Mr. Elston: One of the reasons I am getting those and you are getting that information is that they have been told we were going to introduce the bill on Monday, ram it through the House and have it passed by Monday night. That is just not possible; it is not true. But it was put out to the public by someone, I do not know who.

There was an indication that the bill would not be seen in committee. I told the gentlemen who were at the reception on the evening of November 7 that I intended to see that legislation in a committee, but that information was not put out to the public or to the pharmacists.

Here is an OPA telex sent to all pharmacists. It is dated November 13:

"Dear Pharmacists,

"Re Elston's letter, proposals affect all aspects of pharmacy. Serious public study required immediately. Telegram minister to insist bill not be railroaded through Legislature to meet arbitrary January 1 date. Send copies to Premier, your MPP, OPA." It is signed OPA.

That is why you are getting all the letters and telexes. They have been directed to send telexes to us all. I am thankful we got a copy of that telex.

Mr. Villeneuve: It seems there is a certain degree of either mistrust or lack of communication or both. I come from a riding that is very rural. My metropolis is slightly more than 3,000 people. You have to remember that the county of Dundas has the largest number of senior citizens per capita anywhere. There is concern that some of those pharmacies may not be able to leave their doors open should a very firm, regimented situation come into place. Will there be some degree of flexibility? I am glad to hear of the two-tiered dispensing deal.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is suggested to the OPA, but it is not finalized. We have to negotiate that. When I suggested that at the public meeting, the current president threw up his hands in despair and shook all over, so I am not sure they are receptive to that. We will see what the negotiations bring out of it.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: What was he doing, some drugs? What happened?

Hon. Mr. Elston: He was going to have dinner, but he had some questions for me afterwards. I do not know whether that is going to be finalized. I cannot predict that and I have told the people that. We have provided flexibility to ensure there is a way of meeting problems that are due to a lack of volume-buying power. We can go to actual acquisition costs if they are higher than those we have listed. We do not want to see people lose money.

Some pharmacists in small towns told us they were losing money on some drugs. We have agreed to give them flexibility. Some of the pharmacists said, "That is not my problem now anyway." However, we have moved to address the issues that were raised with us early on. I think we have to move quickly and print the formulary so they can see what the prices are.

I want to make one other point while we are here. We now are talking exclusively about multiple source drugs; that is, an originator plus any number of interchangeable drugs that are manufactured by generic companies. The formulary lists single source drugs in addition to the drugs we spoke about. We found that the prices submitted by the innovators—the single source ones—with the exception of perhaps half a dozen were not far out of line.

We went back to the originators and said, "Tell us what you have done to get this price." They found their prices had sneaked up. Perhaps it was done by someone at a lower level in the company, as Mr. Wiseman suggested. They changed the submission and said, "We are quite

happy with this." We are talking about a problem that has been generated in the multiple source area. People recognize that it existed and will continue to exist without our taking action.

Mr. Villeneuve: The president of district 1 of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association lives in my riding. He has been in constant contact with me. He was unhappy with the way the previous administration at Queen's Park was treating him. He now realizes he would go back to that situation any time. That is food for thought.

Hon. Mr. Elston: He is in that system. Nothing has changed since January 1, 1985. That is the level at which they are being reimbursed. It has not changed. A lot of the uncertainty would have been eliminated if we had been allowed to print our formulary. Many of those people could have had answers to their questions as to whether they were going to be able to have enough flexibility to allow independents to carry on.

I can understand why they are concerned. However, someone has decided that litigation should be brought in to ensure there is confusion and uncertainty in the marketplace, to the detriment of the small independents.

Mr. Villeneuve: I think we all become quite nervous when the government gets directly involved. The government starts to dictate not only dispensing fees—I can accept and live with that—but also the production end of things.

Hon. Mr. Elston: However, we are not producing.

Mr. Villeneuve: I realize that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are accepting prices from all the manufacturers. It will have to be established that they are realistic. That is our goal. Our real goal is to establish realistic prices.

As Minister of Health, I have to be prepared to live with a decision from a policy standpoint that costs more money than it might otherwise. The impact is felt by my government and myself in the tax base we collect. If we make a bad policy decision, that is one thing. However, the impact is felt by the government, the cash-paying customers and the third-party insurers when we make a bad policy decision. That is an intolerable situation.

Mr. Villeneuve: Let us not forget that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right. The cash-paying customers are not paying the spread between \$6 and \$9.67; they will be paying the spread between \$6 and \$26 if we allow the July 1 price submission to take place. That is what is happening now. I tell you that is not reasonable.

Mr. Villeneuve: Would guidelines not have been preferable to hard-and-fast legislation?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The problem is that the current system is the result of an agreement and a piece of legislation known as section 155 of the Health Disciplines Act. That is what the entire Ontario drug benefit program is based on. The program we are putting into place is based on legislation that provides us with the framework to include not only OPA and the ministry, but also the drug manufacturers.

Currently, the drug manufacturers are not parties to the contractual arrangement that establishes the basis for the ODB. Our legislative package will include regulation of the pharmacists, the Ministry of Health and the drug manufacturers, and will provide us with the very authority Mr. Wiseman asked whether we had now, the authority to tell someone we will not be in a position to list him if he cannot verify the realistic nature of his prices.

The legislation is tough with the people who wanted to violate the system and refused to co-operate in developing a reasonable response to a request for prices. In addition, and I think this is extremely important, we are asking that consumers not only be able to receive an interchangeable product but that they also be advised when they go to the pharmacy that they have the right to have an interchangeable product, which may be lower priced than the originator. That is providing the physician does not write "no substitution."

If he writes, "Tagamet only," it is going to be Tagamet; i.e. the higher-priced product. However, if he just writes down the generic name for Tagamet, which is cimetidine, the pharmacist will have to say when you go in to get cimetidine: "Mr. Villeneuve, you have cimetidine prescribed here. You realize you can have Tagamet for \$30.73"—he may not tell you the price—"but the lower-priced drug is X and you can have it."

Up to this point, he did not have to tell you that, although independent pharmacists often did so. In addition, up to this time there was no posting of prescription fees. Now we are going to ask that pharmacists publicly display the fee charged for dispensing a prescription.

We are going to try to build in, I think for the first time, a consumer-oriented philosophy of purchasing medications. It is critical to help people understand that they have choices with respect to shopping with their prescriptions and buying their drugs so they will become more aware that they are individuals who have the right to ask about the nature of the drugs prescribed,

how to take them and why they are being prescribed. I hope the philosophy behind better consumer awareness will assist us to address some of the concerns raised earlier about the average number of prescriptions prescribed in Ontario as opposed to other areas in North America.

Mr. Villeneuve: I hope the companies that produce the alternative products survive and are still around five or 10 years from now so we still have that choice. We have it now; we may not always have it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can tell you that if we did not move to reduce the spread, a number of those generic people would have been out of the market more quickly. The way the spread was being used by one company in particular would have eliminated competitors very fast.

Mr. Chairman: There is an unanswered question. It was asked whether the members could have a list of the fees in other provinces.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will provide that.

Mr. Wildman: I will be quite parochial. My concerns relate to the kind of area I come from, which is rural and northern. We have communities great distances apart. Some of those communities unfortunately have gone through depressed situations and there is a high percentage of people on the drug benefit plan, for instance. I suppose some of those communities have a high percentage of senior citizens.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just by way of information, that is an indication why almost the only retail group that did not suffer losses during the recent recession was pharmacy; it moved ahead.

Mr. Wildman: I have no data for saying this, but I think both the medical profession and pharmacists would do well in a depression; that is under our current system, not that of the 1930s. I suspect health problems are exacerbated when one is under tremendous financial stress. I am a layman, so I suppose I have a right to make those outlandish statements. If this is going to benefit the drug benefit plan, it is certainly going to benefit the third-party insurers too. Do you have any figures and any ideas as to how?

3:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I could tell you a little about a rural area up our way. The pharmacy group I met indicated that the Ontario drug benefit plan was about 65 per cent of its business. That would mean cash-paying customers and third-party insurers would be the other 35 per cent. It is site-specific and a smaller town in your area might have 80 per cent. I cannot tell you.

Mr. Wildman: I want to deal with the small community and with small independent pharmacies with small volumes. For instance, I have a situation where there is a small community of about 1,800 people—it serves a wider area of course—and about 60 per cent of the pharmacy's customers are on the drug benefit plan, which is high. I think that is about 20 per cent higher than your average. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Elston: In terms of your area and my area, 60 or 65 per cent is not unusual.

Mr. Wildman: I have been told by the pharmacist and by other pharmacists in small communities in my riding that they are purchasing some drugs and they boggled me with figures. I do not think they intended to, but I did not have the expertise to be able to go through all the figures. They went through your lists and their actual prices with me; they had the invoices. They showed me drugs that according to your list should be available at a certain price and the price they actually paid was higher.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In those cases, our system will provide them with reimbursement at their acquisition cost. We have taken those things into consideration and addressed them. Individuals came to me between July and September with those same arguments. I am quite prepared to address that. There is flexibility.

Mr. Wildman: In some cases, these were drugs that are not often dispensed.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Most often that is the case; it is the lower volume drugs. You may have one patient who is taking—

Dr. Psutka: One person in town has the eyedrops. He buys one bottle a year.

Mr. Wildman: They need to keep it available.

Then there is another problem. They were saying that with regard to some of the higher volume drugs, the figures your ministry was putting forward were accurate for large pharmacies in large towns, but that the price was not available to them. If they ensure the product is available for the local people, particularly people who cannot afford or do not have the means to travel long distances to a larger area, they are going to lose money. They had to lose money to keep the business; that was the argument. They had to sell the drug because they needed to have it available so customers would come in.

Dr. Psutka: The argument the minister and I heard the other night from a group of pharmacists from small towns was that it was an averaging system. For them at present to keep those loss leaders on hand—

Mr. Wildman: I was not going to use that term, but I am interested you are using it.

Dr. Psutka: They are not loss leaders, but they are drugs they had to sell at a loss. At the other end of the spectrum they had drugs they were selling at a fair profit and they admitted it. Therefore, they averaged out. The new system coming in has a price that we feel the majority of pharmacists will be able to buy at. We are not saying it is the lowest price in Canada. On the other hand, we are also saying that if they cannot buy at that fee, they will at least get actual acquisition costs. They will never have a loss.

Mr. Wildman: All right. In terms of the actual acquisition cost, the other thing is whether this is going to require a good deal more administrative work by the pharmacist, over and above what he has had to do in the past, for him to be able to obtain the actual acquisition costs from the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Elston: When they submit them, we will accept their information that their acquisition cost is at a certain level, but we will have the opportunity of auditing their books to find out whether that is true. It is a little like special authorization. I do not think you will find the volume will be too big for them to handle.

Mr. Wildman: How long would they have to keep their records on hand so they would be available for auditing?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think it would be anything different than is required by the Income Tax Act. They have to keep all that stuff for at least seven years anyway for income tax purposes.

Mr. Chairman: No.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do they not? Can they destroy it whenever they want?

Mr. Chairman: You can get permission to destroy it after three years.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You can get permission to destroy it, but they very seldom do that.

Mr. Wildman: Maybe I should try to get that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The other thing I want to point out, by the way, is that section 155 of the Health Disciplines Act has always been a bit of a bugbear with pharmacists. This is another point that was raised with me, and for those people who keep telling their pharmacist constituency I have not been talking or negotiating with anybody, one of the first things the Ontario Pharmacists' Association said to me was, "Section 155 is no good; do away with it." I said,

"Can we reform it?" They said, "No, do away with it."

The new legislation does away with section 155, which effectively set the dispensing fee for the cash-paying market when interchangeable products were used. I have done away with it. For those people who have been saying I do not listen to anybody, that is a prime example of having done exactly what was requested.

The other evening, when we spoke to our 12 pharmacist friends, I said, "We have done this." They said: "Well, it worked okay until about two or three years ago. It has just been the last couple of years it has not worked."

Mr. Wildman: I know it was not your government but it was your ministry and you have the responsibility, so I would ask you to explain why there was no negotiation on the dispensing fee. Why did that not take place?

Hon. Mr. Elston: They probably were slow. I do not know.

Mr. Wildman: That is a real bone the pharmacists pick.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Here is what happened. With respect, there was the Gordon report that was filed in August 1984. It set some parameters within which certain steps would be taken. We saw the printing of another formulary, which was developed in October 1984 for printing on January 1, 1985. Dispensing fees stayed at \$5 because Dean Gordon suggested that, for the purposes of beginning negotiations on April 1, when it traditionally happens, \$5 be used as the fee.

You will not get the Ontario Pharmacists' Association to agree that is what the Gordon report says. However, I think that is a reasonable reading of that report. OPA says it should have been at \$5.23.

A great many discussions were held and a number were about some of the other parts of the Gordon report that dealt with consumer items and what he suggested be done. It is unfair to say there were no discussions or negotiations. There were a number of occasions on which discussions and negotiations occurred prior to my coming in. There have been several since I came in.

Any question about any kind of agreement that was to have been reached, or was thought to have been almost reached in the last days of the former government, was largely put together in a letter drafted and typed by the OPA that had no basis in fact as to what had actually occurred in the policy-making decisions.

Dr. Psutka was just nice enough to indicate the list of meetings that have occurred, in context. This is since I came in; August 14, for instance.

Mr. Wildman: Is this on dispensing fees or on the whole issue?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Everything.

Dr. Psutka: This is on everything. There are those on dispensing and negotiating fees. Here are the lists. This is just some of the list.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I had a number of internal meetings with ministry people and quite a few with the pharmacy industry in July. On August 14, ministry and OPA negotiators met. On August 15, I had the news conference in Ottawa and I met with the OPA representatives in the morning before I flew to Ottawa. On August 16, the ministry officials met with the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada and the Canadian Drug Manufacturers' Association. Those are the originator and generic drug manufacturers' associations.

On August 26, the ministry officials met with a drug manufacturer. By the way, on two separate occasions I met with both the fellow who was suing us if we printed the formulary and the guy who was going to sue us if we did not, and met with three or four representatives of the independent pharmacists.

4 p.m.

On September 3, I had another news conference at Queen's Park concerning the new formulary. My intentions were made known and the OPA was available. Dr. Psutka called the OPA and offered to meet with its representatives on September 6. On September 10, the ministry officials met with CDMA. On September 12, I held another news conference with regard to the court action by the drug manufacturers. On September 24, the ministry met with members of the Society of Independent Pharmacists. On October 10, the ministry and the Ontario Pharmacists' Association resumed negotiations. On October 17, a negotiation meeting was held between the ministry and OPA officials.

On November 7, ministry officials met with and briefed the groups that Dr. Dyer mentioned, including the OPA. That evening I was at the reception and talked to the president and others, although we were not officially sitting down negotiating. I talked to them about the legislation.

On November 12, Dr. Psutka and other ministry people met with the OPA. On November 18, we met with OPA district 13. I have a meeting coming up in Barrie tomorrow evening with district 5, I believe, of the OPA.

Those are the types of things that we have been doing since, so nobody should say that there have

not been opportunities. In addition to that, I have met Mr. Belitz at about three or four functions at which I was speaking. He directed questions to me from the floor of those public meetings. I have responded to him. We have been doing a lot of talking and discussing.

As to why the matter was not settled before June 26, I suspect they wanted somebody fresh to come in to take a good look at this—a fresh look—and come up with some solutions. Each one of these groups said something had to be done.

Mr. Chairman: As they say in the House, I have a message delivered by your own hand. It says, "Dear Mr. Elston, I will advertise my fees on the outside of my store as soon as lawyers do the same."

Mr. Wildman: Who sent that, Bob Nixon?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not have that one. It is probably a copy of one that is in my office.

Mr. Chairman: It may well be.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But I can tell you that what we are talking about right now is the Ontario drug benefit plan, which is pharmacy, and the system which we are putting in place is one that is going to be developing consumer awareness. It will be consumer awareness of the information required to be wise purchasers and wise consumers of a product that will deal with this issue of pharmacy. This is the topic I am charged to take control of. I have, I am; and we have legislation that is up for discussion in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Wildman: As you know, I am a member of the standing committee on public accounts, and I was a party to those discussions.

I am obviously concerned about the overall cost to taxpayers as well as to the private individuals and groups that are purchasing drugs in this province. At the same time, as a representative of a rural area and a northern area, it is important that whatever the final outcome of this whole process, the small independent druggists in the small communities, survive and are able to provide what is an essential service to the small communities and to the residents in those areas.

I would hope that whatever the approach may be, whether it is a differential dispensing fee, as well as the actual acquisition costs approach and so on, it can be resolved so those pharmacists will be able to continue to provide the service that is needed.

Hon. Mr. Elston: On our part, there is certainly a willingness to provide flexibility for those special situations where there is not the

same flexibility for the small-volume pharmacist.

Mr. Chairman: I guess we are going to have to adjourn shortly. I have just one question that you might answer. How are you going to limit the price charged by the manufacturers?

Hon. Mr. Elston: They will have to submit information to us and, to get listed, they will have to verify the reasonableness, the realistic nature of those prices before we will list them in our formulary. We will have the option under the legislation, an option which is not available to us now, to say, "No, you are not going to be listed if you cannot verify realistic prices."

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: May I ask one question about how this matter is going to be settled? If the minister puts it on the record, it might put a few people's minds at rest. I gather that it is the government's intention that this bill will go out to committee for public hearing.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right. I have said that several times.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There is a lot of confusion about a lot of things. It is now on the record that the bill will be going out to committee.

Mr. Dean: I have one other request. I wonder if it would be possible to have a brief outline of the steps that have been taken. The minister has been doing it verbally here. One of the complaints I have been getting is that there has been no input by the other people. From what you say it sounds as though there has been a lot of it. I do not want 10 pages but if there were a two-page summary of the events, it would be helpful.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Pat tells me Hansard will be available in a day or so, Gordon, and it lists the number of meetings that have been put together on our part since I came in.

Mr. Dean: You recited the whole works there, did you?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes.

Mr. Dean: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: What is the committee's wish about next week's starting time?

Mr. Dean: Would you prefer to start earlier?

Mr. Chairman: The minister has agreed to that.

Mr. Dean: You mean 9:30 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can meet earlier if you wish.

Mr. Chairman: What is the wish of the committee?

Mr. Dean: Yes, 9:30 a.m. is okay with me.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Whatever the committee decides. The minister must have the same problem as us, even more so. We do not get much time in our offices. Some of us have other responsibilities besides being a critic. As I am supposed to be our deputy House leader and whip, I get very little time in my office; 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Wednesday is the only time really.

I do not intend to take the 20 hours. I am hoping we can wrap this up over three weeks instead of going the whole 20 hours, but that will be up to the rest of the committee.

Mr. Chairman: What about 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. next week? Is that too much? I guess you have said it is.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If we could go from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., that gives two and a half hours. Then if we go from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or

whatever—I do not know. The minister has cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The reason I would not mind going from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon is I could get in on the tail end of the cabinet meeting before it breaks. That is important to me on a number of occasions.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Why do we not come in at 10 a.m. and pretend we came in at 9:30 a.m. so the half hour clicks off?

Mr. Chairman: Let us go from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. That is a compromise.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not sure where the compromise is. None the less, if that is what the committee wishes—I am not even a member of the committee.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

The committee adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

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No. G-4

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Office of the Assembly

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, November 27, 1985
Morning Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, November 27, 1985

The committee met at 9:43 a.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 3601, ministry administration program:

Mr. Chairman: We are considering the estimates of the Ministry of Health and we are on vote 3601. There was agreement last week that the critic from the Progressive Conservative Party could spend a little time with us at the beginning. Mr. Pope now occupies that post and we will hear from him.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Before we do, could I raise a matter? Next Wednesday morning I have to deliver a speech to the Ontario Hospital Association. We have a couple of options regarding time. We could start a little later in the morning or, as you had suggested, start at 1 p.m. and continue until 5 p.m.

I had thought of starting around 10 a.m. There are a couple of people who want to see a presentation on paramedics. We could start with the presentation on paramedics and I would then arrive to answer questions and be available, probably starting about 10:45 a.m.

I am quite open as to what the committee would like to do. If we could make a decision on it this morning we could do our scheduling to make sure everything fits in. Mr. Cooke may have a problem with a later starting.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a problem with next Wednesday afternoon. If you covered paramedics in the morning, Mr. Pope and his colleagues could do whatever they want in the afternoon and then the following week we could come back and do some nursing home questions.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will start at 10 a.m., then; and we could start off with the paramedics and have our regular two-hour session in the afternoon, from two to four or whatever. Okay?

Mr. Chairman: From 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Agreed? Agreed.

Mr. Pope: Congratulations to the minister on his already being in office longer than his two predecessors combined. I know it is a big ministry; I know you have good staff to help you

and I wish you well in your endeavours. That having been said, I would like to pose a few issues to deal with in these estimates.

I know you dealt with the drug benefit plan at the opening of estimates and I will not review that. I apologize if there is some overlapping. I am going to be brief.

I would like to have some answers from the minister as to how well the legislation was drafted, what options were considered, what options were discussed with the other groups while you were drafting the legislation, what meetings were held, with which groups, when—after the legislation had been drafted internally and before it had been presented for first reading—and what meetings have been held since your announcement in the Legislature that you were introducing legislation, and what meetings have been held with members of the provincial Legislature.

I would like to know what options you considered, and I know there are many. I know it is a very complex issue and I am not underestimating that. What options did you consider when you were deciding what course to follow in resolving this problem, one that everyone admits exists? What information did you receive and from what sources on the British Columbia option?

I would ask a similar series of questions with respect to the extra billing issue. With which groups have you met on extra billing since you were in office, when and what options did you consider? Did you specifically look at an option of grandfathering? Did you specifically look at options with respect to negotiation of fee items in the Ontario health insurance plan schedule with specialty groups as a way of trading off the ban on extra billing? What options did you consider before you opted for your current position?

I also have some concerns about your future intentions on the denticare program. What options are you now considering? What meetings are you having with whom and when will you announce the final decision? I would like you to address the state of your relationship with the Ontario Dental Association.

While there is always a necessary tension and competitiveness and perhaps conflict with various professional groups in the health care field, it

appears to me it may be accelerating rather than decelerating. What are your general intentions about how you are going to ease the relationship between your government and the various professional groups, because I think Mr. Cooke put it properly at the beginning of estimates that everyone is being deluged with calls? We feel there is a widespread misunderstanding or somebody is not communicating properly and we have to sort that out.

9:50 a.m.

I want to talk about your recent announcement in the Legislature on northern health care and your parliamentary assistant's statement in Thunder Bay. The two are different, by the way. I would like to explore with you your government's role in these matters since you took office because, for instance, northern transportation was instituted for emergency cases when we dedicated their ambulance system in the late 1970s.

I recall a decision made last spring by the Ministry of Health, and approved by Management Board, to go on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Did your government put that decision on hold and withhold those dollars from the Ministry of Health? Did your ministry proceed to implement the program that was funded by the previous government?

This province has also had, since November 1980, an institution-to-institution transfer system for essential hospital services. It has been used regularly in northern Ontario. How is that system affected by your recent announcements?

Are you pulling out of the hospital-to-hospital transfer system? Are you trying to limit expenses by instituting the northern travel allowance system? Could you not have accomplished the same thing by adjusting hospital admission and discharge procedures to allow patients freer movement between institutions in northern and southern Ontario?

What steps have you taken to ensure the system is implemented in southern Ontario hospitals without administrators telling northern residents that if they want to go north they can turn to welfare in Toronto? I also want to know whether your new northern transportation policy is under the provisions of section 10 of the Health Insurance Act. If not, under what act is it?

I would like you to confirm that the northern transportation system you have announced was approved by the previous government, announced on April 18, and by Management Board. Were the funds allocated to the Ministry of Health? Has your Management Board put

those funds on hold? If so, why? Why was the system not put in place in July and August as scheduled, and who authorized the holdback on that procedure? Why have we waited five months for a program that was funded in the Ministry of Health budget in April and May of this year?

I am also concerned about statements in your November 25 release. What is happening to the associated hospital program and the linkage of specialty staff in teaching hospitals across the province to northern Ontario hospitals? In that context, I would like a full explanation of what happened to Dr. Frank Covington. What will happen now that there is no staff psychiatrist in the Timmins area, the Cochrane district, and the Timiskaming district? What are you going to do to resolve that situation? Dr. Covington has been gone for two months. He was to be in charge of an outreach program.

My understanding is that commitments of the ministry were not honoured and his payroll cheques were withheld. Due to his increasing frustration with the Ministry of Health, he opted for other parts of this continent to carry on his professional practice. Who is responsible for that? Why has there not been any move to get service reinstituted in the entire northeastern Ontario area?

Through a direct link with the University of Western Ontario's hospital, this man was the co-ordinator of an outreach program for psychiatric services throughout northeastern Ontario. He was going to get competent backup specialists on a regular basis into northeastern Ontario to provide quality psychiatric care. That system has deteriorated in the last six months. Someone is responsible. I would like a clear statement about what is happening with psychiatric care in northeastern Ontario and why Dr. Covington was let go with no replacement.

I also have a number of other questions I want to pose with respect to the assistive devices program: whether or not your government put additional funding for that program on hold and why; whether or not there was additional funding provided to this ministry in this current financial year with respect to an expansion of the assistive devices program; why the provisions of that program were amended, and in what way, by yourself as Minister of Health and by staff?

I would like to know whether or not you have amended the underserved area program criteria to exclude general practitioners, which is the complaint you received in writing two days ago in the Legislature from a doctor who, on the basis of commitments made to him, made financial

commitments himself and was prepared to enter this country and is now being told there is no place for him, that no general practitioners are now to be situated in the underserved area program.

Also on your announcement of the underserved area program with respect to 50 additional specialists, my belief is that the program was funded by the previous government, that the moneys were put into the budget of the Ministry of Health. I would like to know why that program has been withheld for the last five months and why the program that you announced is virtually the same and, therefore, why withhold it? Why withhold the funding over a period of five months?

On capital projects, I would like to go through the status of the entire list of lottery-funded capital programs. I would like to know if there has been any adjustment in the cashflow requirements or in the total ministry share for the entire works. I would like to know the status of the Timmins District Hospital and the North Bay hospital and their funding schedules, and whether or not there is going to be additional capital funding for the projects that are currently listed in your hold category. What is your intention with respect to expansion of the capital funding program?

I would like to explore where you are heading on the core programs for the health units of this province and to know whether or not you are moving in the direction the previous administration did with the expansion of the core programs. Specifically, you have a list of projects on a health-unit-by-health-unit basis. I want to know, from the entire list, which ones are going ahead this year and which ones are not.

I would like to have information with respect to your future intentions on hospital operating budgets, the allocation process, and the policies you are going to use in meeting the financial requirements of the hospitals of the province.

There are a lot of other issues my colleagues, including the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), have raised in their comments and that we will get into in the estimates, but these are some of the important issues I feel have to be dealt with by the ministry and the members of the Legislature.

My main concern is the relationship that appears to be developing between yourself and the various professional and interest groups in the province. I see a lot of confrontation coming, which may be needless; and I think it is a major issue any Health minister has to face. I know

that, but I would like to hear from you on the record, and get some sign that you realize there is a problem and some idea of how you intend to handle it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: To Mr. Pope, congratulations on being nominated and named the Health critic. I do think I can answer the list of questions. It is a long list and I think it is really designed to set out an agenda for the questions that are to be posed; otherwise I could be going on alone for about eight or 10 hours in response, and I do not think that is what is required.

10 a.m.

Let me say with respect to my relationship with the health care professionals that I have been meeting steadily and on an ongoing basis with a number of those health care professions. I will be meeting with another group this afternoon. I have been making appearances at their annual meetings, and I have been talking to them about a number of items of significant interest to them.

With respect to the numbers of calls that are coming in, I suspect that a reason for this is that health care professionals know we are arriving at a stage where a report will be made to me as a result of the health profession's legislative review. This is ongoing but has been directed by Alan Schwartz now for about two years.

If there is anxiety it may be in relation to concerns about what recommendations may be made to the minister with respect to any particular group. Recommendations to me are not yet final and decisions are not yet final. When people anticipate final decisions there is always some anxiety being built up. Those decisions will be made shortly and announcements will be made. I suspect that a number of those calls being generated to Health critics and members alike will then subside.

However, as you should and I suppose do know, we do not always achieve agreement between members of professions and the coordinating groups of those professions. A case in point recently is with respect to one profession from which I received a recommendation to raise the annual fees, and a write-in campaign occurred from the membership. As a result of deliberations, the increase in those fees was changed.

There are always internal disagreements within professions. I have found that meeting with one group of professionals does not mean you are speaking to the whole of the profession. I have been meeting, as well, with people who have expressed some dissatisfaction with the way their organizations have been running.

If there has been concern expressed, it may be because there is a new approach respecting my style of operation, which is to speak to as many of the people as I can about the issues affecting them. I do not intend to change all that much. I intend to continue speaking to groups at length about the concerns within their profession so I can deal intelligently with the tensions, not only between but also within professions. That is something we all have to deal with as politicians. If we are approached by any group with a concern we have to be prepared to weigh the two sides, or perhaps even more in some cases.

With respect to drug benefits, for instance, last week we listed the number of meetings I have held. These meetings have been extensive. We have gone through meetings with consumer groups and pharmacist groups, independent pharmacists and individuals, with Dean Gordon and others. We received suggestions from those meetings.

In fact, two major recommendations made by the Ontario Pharmacists' Association on my first sitdown with it and with the college was to deal with section 155 in the manner in which it is dealt with in present legislation. That is just one example.

We have listened, but in discussions with all these groups I can tell you I cannot accept all the recommendations made to me for inclusion in the legislation; that is not possible. I had to make some decisions resulting in the final draft of the bill presented for the review of all at the time of its introduction on November 7, 1985.

Before that time, I had attempted to make changes with respect to the formulary which would have been of great assistance to pharmacy. We were prevented from doing that by litigation openly sponsored by a particular company, which none the less had the result of causing problems for pharmacists in this province.

As a result, we moved to put together legislation which would allow the development of a new formulary with an emphasis on providing us with the opportunity of setting out realistic prices, and then setting up a system where we could legislatively proceed to negotiations that would establish fees.

The other items perhaps might better be raised under specific votes, but I will touch on them. Perhaps I could touch on who else I have been talking to in the province with respect to legislation or anticipated policy direction.

I can tell you I have been meeting extensively, as well, with interest groups which could be determined to be consumer-oriented in their

thoughts. I have met with a number of health care professionals who have different ideas on how to provide quality health care services in the province.

I have been attending events where these groups usually get together, and I have had a chance informally to talk to many more, in addition to the more formal meetings I have held in the board rooms of hospitals or community health centres or in my own board room in the Ministry of Health. We have had extensive consultations with those people.

The discussions I have held also reflect on the development of our legislative response to the extra billing issue, and those people have been widely consulted. As Dr. Dyer knows, the folks at the Ontario Medical Association do not specifically want to talk about options for negotiating with specialist groups or for instance, about various parts of the fee structure.

The OMA is not particularly interested in talking to me at all about the options that deal with ending extra billing. You have received that signal, I am sure, from the executive. You have probably also received it from one of your leader's favourite people, Dr. Joan M. Charbonneau, whom he is wont to quote on occasion in the House, and I am sure you probably understand that those two groups in particular are not interested in options.

When you talk about options, by meeting individual physicians and by meeting groups of physicians, I have received some thoughts on the areas of our health care system which we do have to discuss and deal with. Some suggestions have been made, by the way, with respect to certain incentives for specialists, certain incentives for general practitioners who are providing primary care.

So there are lots of people who are making suggestions, but in terms of the groups, the stated official position those people have is they will not negotiate terms that will end extra billing. That has not precluded, however, an ongoing and very good series of meetings we have held concerning the state of health care in the province from the perspective of the OMA, for instance.

However, I would not want to tell members that those discussions, which talk about matters like utilization and about how physicians provide services in various facilities across the province and how they prescribe medications, and that type of thing, are in any way an indication that they are willing to talk about the options to end extra billing. That has not occurred, but we have

continued to examine the health care system from other angles.

So with those few words in response, I think we should open the questioning up to other members. We stopped, I think, in the middle of somebody else's question last week. I do not think I can go through and answer each question at this time, but will answer more specifically as votes come up, if that is agreeable with you, Mr. Chairman.

10:10 a.m.

Mr. Pope: In response, I understand everything you said. Returning to the question I asked, how many times—and if you said this last week and if that is the complete answer, that is fine—have you met with the OPA with respect to the legislation now before the House?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We briefed the OPA on November 7, and we have had several meetings with pharmacists. I cannot tell you how many times I have met with the president of the OPA, Mr. Belitz, on this specific legislation. Probably, with respect to the entire draft, I did not meet with Mr. Belitz before it was introduced.

Mr. Pope: Do you think, in retrospect, that is one of the problems you are facing right now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think so.

Mr. Pope: Do you have any plans to meet with the OPA before we proceed further with the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Well, I met with Mr. Belitz, for instance, on Friday, and he probably told you that.

Mr. Pope: I have not talked to him.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We met with him last Friday. He wanted to come in to chat with me for 15 minutes. He made it very clear it was not a matter of negotiations. I could not understand why, but he said: "Do not call this negotiations. Do not say it is anything more than an information exchange." So I said, "That is fine."

Instead of 15 minutes, we spent half an hour or so talking about things with respect to the ad campaign generated by the pharmacists. I had anticipated receiving some input from the OPA, but he advised that the OPA would be forwarding its comments on the legislation to the ministry yesterday. I have not seen them, but I understand they did arrive. I am not certain of that, but I understand they were supposed to have arrived yesterday.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When I met with Mr. Belitz a few weeks ago, it was at the time the OPA was pushing the remedy to the problem as its

submission to the Gordon Commission on the Pricing of Multiple-Source Drug Products in Ontario. It indicated that was the direction the opposition should be taking, and that is what we should be promoting in the Legislature, but that it could not share its submission to the Gordon commission with us.

The only person who could release that document he described as confidential was you. I am not quite sure why, but it might give me some understanding as to what the OPA is actually promoting. It does not seem to be able to put its position out in writing, which is, apparently, its submission to the Gordon commission.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not follow the idea that an association was required to make the submissions to Dean Gordon confidential. I did not understand that to be a confidential commission. I thought it was a wide open commission.

I do know that the OPA has refused to provide a copy of that submission even to its own members—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I know—

Hon. Mr. Elston: —because there is a piece of litigation apparently ongoing as a result of that. Now, I understand, from speaking with Mr. Belitz about this particular item, that the executive of the OPA has refused to send that piece of material to its membership. You raised this with me yesterday, and I have not had a chance to talk to Dean Gordon about this so that I could get an understanding of where the confidentiality might come from. I am not sure, if it was confidential to Dean Gordon, whether the minister would be able to release it.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I did not understand that either.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not, and I would have have thought that any association would provide for its membership, for instance, the written response to a commission which sets the agenda for the entire pharmacy.

Mr. Belitz made the point to me as well the other day that he thought I should make that available. To make sure I was not causing problems between myself and the OPA, I would want to be very careful, if the OPA thought it was confidential, not to run around and distribute the confidential information.

I will take a look at that, and find out what the problem is. I suspect the problem is not one of confidentiality as between the OPA and Dean Gordon and the public, but perhaps a difficulty which may be internal.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not have the details on the proposal other than what I have been told in a brief description by him, but my understanding is that perhaps the reason they do not want to release it is because if we follow the recommendations, the cost of the Ontario drug benefit program would probably increase, not decrease. One can only guess.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will check on the confidentiality.

Mr. Wiseman: To clarify what was said last Wednesday when we were discussing this, I had asked how many meetings the minister had prior to the legislation going out. I do not have a copy of Hansard for last Wednesday afternoon, but from what you said to my colleague, Mr. Pope, it would appear you met with them once but never showed them the draft legislation before it went out. So what my pharmacists were saying is in fact true.

I took those dates you gave me last week at face value. I do not have Hansard here but I am going to read it and check. I felt perhaps I was misled a little on the number of meetings and with whom. It seems you had them with private individuals and not with the Ontario College of Pharmacists which speaks on behalf of everyone.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I wouldn't say that Doug.

Mr. Wiseman: They are elected to speak on behalf of everyone, just as we are in our counties. Maybe we do not represent all of the people all of the time either. I came away with that misunderstanding from the answer you gave me. I questioned my pharmacists and they said what Mr. Pope has been able to get at today, is, in fact, true.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not unusual to find that in the form in which it is introduced, a piece of legislation has not been vetted by everyone, but this is the first time the draft regulations have been very important to those people simultaneously.

Let me also explain to you, as I did to Mr. Pope, that the very things which the Ontario Pharmacists' Association were asking me to consider at the first meeting, and which the Ontario College of Pharmacists asked me to consider at that meeting, have been dealt with in this legislation.

Mr. Wiseman: Things have really changed in the Ministry of Health since the time I was parliamentary assistant, when we put out those draft proposals for comment before we brought in the legislation. We did that on a good many occasions. Perhaps when John was parliamenta-

ry assistant it was done the same way. I had the privilege of meeting with many of those disciplines and we never did what you just told us you did in this case. No wonder they are upset.

Mr. Pope: My understanding is you had the draft legislation in your hands when you met with the OPA on November 7.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Before that there were meetings between staff and the OPA as well.

Mr. Pope: Not on draft legislation though.

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to parts of the draft legislation.

Mr. Pope: I do not think there was legislation in front of them.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think there was. I was not at those meetings but I suspect there were not pieces of draft legislation at those meetings.

Mr. Pope: The second point I wanted to hear about is what options did you personally consider before you finalized this draft legislation in the ministry? What options did you look at?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There were several options. I am not sure it would be constructive to go through them all but I think there are a number of options that still have to be laid out as to how the reimbursement schedule is worked on. That is the important one for the purposes of a number of pharmacists.

Mr. Pope: I am not trying to get into that kind of detail. I just want to know if you examined the British Columbia system, as opposed to the formulary, as an alternative before you decided which route to go?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We looked at all of the provinces, not just British Columbia or Saskatchewan. When we studied Saskatchewan, for instance, as a system where the prices were set, I was very clear that we were seeing those from the standpoint of showing trends in costs of drugs under a system which was not appropriate for Ontario, in the sense of a standing contract concept.

We looked at British Columbia, at the costs there and the way those were worked. I studied their system and decided the way it works depends largely on pharmacist-to-pharmacist peer pressure and also very strong action by their registrar, almost a personal type of system. Yes, I examined all of those possibilities. The staff went through them as well, and settled on this particular model.

Mr. Pope: My last question is, did you reject the British Columbia alternative? I am not saying that I disagree, I just want to know if you—

Hon. Mr. Elston: I just want to know where you are coming from. Is that your model or are you not going to support the model that is here? Is that what you are telling me?

Mr. Pope: No. Do not try that one. All I want to know is why did you, as the minister, reject the British Columbia model? I am hearing from you that you rejected it because you did not trust the registrar to administer the system properly in Ontario and you did not trust peer pressure. Those are the two reasons you just gave.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Those are two of the dominant parts of the system but the other reason was that the size of the market here in Ontario is much different than in British Columbia. We have a very large and complicated drug marketing system in Ontario and I did not think the model was appropriate. Ontario represents 40 per cent of the entire Canadian drug market and of that, the Ontario drug benefit program represents 40 per cent.

What I am looking at is providing us with a mechanism which will allow us to effectively manage the Ontario drug benefit program. The system we have put together is Ontario's system of managing the drug benefit program in a reasonable way. If we hope to provide services for seniors and people on social assistance, then we have to be able to manage that system. The system I have put together in legislative form is the one we believe will provide us with the ability to manage. That is what we made our decision on, not because of any other things that were happening in British Columbia or elsewhere.

Mr. Pope: Who has to manage this system? What is wrong with relying upon the professionalism of people?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not mind relying on the professionalism of people with respect to the management of a system if we are looking at providing us with value for our dollars. We found that the current system—and your predecessor found the same thing, and there really is not a system existing now—was not providing us with that value. We were getting price submissions which were not realistic. We were in a situation where the Ontario College of Pharmacists, under section 155, was unable to effectively enforce Ontario legislation.

When I met with Mr. Wensley, the registrar of the college, in late September, he advised me that 80 per cent of the pharmacists were violating section 155. There are a number of things in that system that are out of whack. The option that is before the House is one that will allow us to deal effectively with those problems.

In addition, it eliminates one of the sore points with the college and with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association. That is section 155. Now that they have some relief from that one, they do not want to talk about the fact that the legislation addresses that very real concern. They want to go on to disagree with the fact that I want to do away with things like 30-day dispensing and other items.

I have never said that these people are not able to carry on professional counselling, the decision of reviewing the interaction and the potency of drugs. That type of question has never come up with me and I am not changing that in the system; however, the system will provide a mechanism for the government when it spends money to provide services for seniors and others who cannot provide for themselves. I will provide the government with the ability to give reasonable prices for the services required. That is the bottom line as to how that mechanism was put together.

The bill itself covers issues which I have discussed in and out of my office with members of professional associations, individuals and consumers who are concerned about the way things were going. It also takes into consideration letters I have received from physicians. I have done a very thorough analysis of this whole thing and put together a piece of legislation which is now there for comment. I am sure you will be providing your party's position with respect to this legislation in very short order. The will of the Legislative Assembly will have to be based on whether or not the parties in the Legislature think that this government should be able to manage the Ontario drug benefit program effectively, for the best value for our dollar, and whether they want to have consumers able to receive information on this drug market.

If you want to oppose the legislation, or if it is the intention to oppose the legislation on the basis that we should not manage the program or should not provide consumers with information, that is a decision each party will have to make. As minister, I am going live with the decision of the Legislative Assembly. I have put the option before you, on the basis of the best advice, the best consultation that I could get right through the piece. We are now in the legislative process where all of this will be worked through.

Mr. Pope: Do you believe the Ontario Pharmacists' Association and the Ontario College of Pharmacists cannot discipline?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The OPA will not discipline anybody. It is not the role of the OPA to discipline anyone.

Mr. Pope: Do you believe the college and the OPA together cannot run a disciplined Ontario drug benefit program?

Hon. Mr. Elston: So far there has not been discipline in the Ontario drug benefit program because there are only two parties to the agreement. Currently, those are the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Pharmacists' Association. The group that is really causing us problems is the third party, which is very instrumental in setting up this whole system, the manufacturers.

This new piece of legislation brings all three parties together. As you know, the only control was by way of some kind of jiggling around of the numbers that were submitted. This year, on July 1, we should have had a new formulary. However, more than one drug manufacturer currently has imposed a suit. One was going to sue me if I printed the book in July and the other was going to sue me if I did not print the book. We have a couple of pieces of litigation on the go. That does not matter. A particular company was unwilling this time to be anywhere near realistic in the price it submitted; as a result, it was going to get worse. Now the system provides us with the opportunity of managing that as well and bringing those people in.

My answer to you was that the Ontario drug benefit program was not being managed by the OPA. The OPA never intended to manage the Ontario drug benefit program. It intended to provide the service for the amount of money that was reimbursed to it. That was its only role. With regard to other items, if you want to talk about the British Columbia situation, we discussed that with them. The OPA does not like the acquisition cost that British Columbia has. We discussed those sorts of things. All we are doing is putting together a system of realistic prices.

Mr. Pope: But you have opted for a system that maintains control through a formulary in the hands of the Ministry of Health as opposed to a system that has as its discipline and control, the OPA and the college.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There was no OPA control.

Mr. Pope: I am not saying there was. I am talking about your present decision, about the way you are going with this legislation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There was no control in that area before by the OPA or the college. The college refused to or did not enforce until I wrote a letter.

Mr. Pope: I am not talking about that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just a minute, we are talking about control.

Mr. Pope: I know all about that.
10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You do, but you are alluding to the fact there was some degree of control or that there could be.

Mr. Pope: No, I was not.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am telling you, historically, there was not.

Mr. Pope: I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, but that is what you implied and that is what you hope people would infer from what you have said.

Mr. Pope: No. I did not say that. I simply asked the question about why you opted for a government-controlled system using the formulary as opposed to the other options.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is our service.

Mr. Pope: I started off asking you a question about what options you considered. I am asking why you did not consider an option which would have the OPA and the college as the controlling elements in the plan?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Because there was no control by those elements nor was there an expression even to enforce the controls which were set through legislation.

Mr. Pope: You did not consider allowing them to control the system. That is all I am asking.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The system is being managed by the government. We pay the dollars.

Mr. Pope: You opted not to change that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Well, we cannot, we are paying the dollars. Right?

Mr. Pope: I know. That is fine. I just want to know what you opted for.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is my understanding that Green Shield, Blue Cross, London Life and all the rest of the third-party plans do not allow the OPA or the college to control their insurance programs either.

Mr. Pope: I am still asking the question. It is relevant.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not sure about that.

Mr. Pope: The second group I was asking specifically about was the Ontario Medical Association. Are you saying you have not had a meeting with the OMA at which extra billing has been discussed?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have discussed what was on one occasion described euphemistically on our program as the central issue. We have

talked about extra billing, there is no question, on numerous occasions. But they say there are no negotiations, publicly or privately, with respect to extra billing and how it can be ended. They will talk about it only from the standpoint of never eliminating it. That is the situation.

There have been a number of meetings and you will be aware of how agendas are sometimes worded. That was how the particular item—extra billing—was worded on one agenda.

Mr. Pope: Are you considering any options other than an absolute ban? Are you looking at any phase-out or negotiated options with the Ontario health insurance plan schedule?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is hard to consider the negotiated options with specialty groups and others if people refuse to talk about them. I have been at a number of meetings of districts and of medical legal societies, etc., where people will raise questions. I say, "Let us talk about that very item and let us see where we can move with it." As soon as I say, "Let us discuss it," people tell me, point blank, that I have no right to talk to them about it.

I have thrown out a few ideas into the public forum, as it were, to be considered, but I get no response on an official basis from the associations.

I will give an example of some kind of incentive for general practitioners. I said, "Maybe we should consider something on that." Dr. Myers said, not to me directly but through the newspaper: "Gee, we think that is a great idea, but we will have none of that. He cannot buy us off." What Dr. Myers really said was: "Who does he think he is kidding? We are not going to talk to him about any option or any way of addressing the elimination of extra billing." That has been their position.

I have to respect it and I have reached out much further than that by going to the public and receiving their input. I also have met with individual physicians who have made suggestions about how we can eliminate it, but when it comes right down to looking at this part of the fee schedule, or how teaching is done, etc., the OMA will not address those issues in the context of elimination, nor will they talk to me about phasing out. They have never raised that with me.

Mr. Pope: But you are considering all of those options now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: They have been discussed over a period of several months.

Mr. Pope: You did not answer my question. Are you considering a number of options, or have you finalized a position?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As a member of the Legislative Assembly, I am always willing to receive input during policy discussions. If you have a position you want me to consider, I will listen. When we make our final decisions, we will discuss their ramifications with you. If we are interested in your suggestion, I am prepared to thoroughly discuss it. I am open to that.

I have not received anything from your party—of course, it has had a difficult time with leadership and other things. But I understand that your current leader is not interested in a ban on extra billing. That is what I gather from the parts of the regional debates I was able to—

Mr. Pope: You missed some parts of them.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I did, obviously.

Mr. Pope: How many meetings have you had with the Ontario Dental Association? Have you discussed the denticare program with them?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure how many times I have seen them. I have had two or three liaison meetings and I have met them at other meetings. We have met a couple of times with representatives in other ministries as well. We have discussed parts of the program and I have received submissions on what they think might be possible for a denticare program.

Mr. Pope: Will your denticare program have a fee schedule and will you ban extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not gone into the details of the denticare program.

Mr. Pope: So you are a long way from a denticare program, then, if you have not gone into it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have not gone into any detail, but we have had other consultations, which you seem intent on saying have not been going on.

Mr. Pope: I am not intent on anything. I am just asking for information.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Oh, sure.

Mr. Pope: How many meetings have you held with the ODA?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have seen them two or three times on liaison, but I have also been at a couple of other meetings with them.

Mr. Pope: Okay.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Is that it?

Mr. Pope: No, I have a—

Hon. Mr. Elston: You are going through the list again, which I was not going to answer fully until we got to other votes. But if you want to do it all now, that is fine.

Mr. Pope: I do not know.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is possible you will have the whole afternoon if you want it. I do not think I will be here. I would like to make some requests for information on vote 1.

Mr. Chairman: Carry on, please.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not sure whether all of these points fit under vote 1, but usually when there is no program in place and it is a possible policy decision they come under vote 1.

Mr. Pope: What my friend wants to discuss under vote 1 is fine with me. Just go to it.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Yes, but if the appropriate person is not here we can hold off until another day.

I would like to know what the minister's response is going to be, or has been, to the Toronto Birth Centre proposal. I know he has met with the group.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are in the process of considering how health professions provide services and mechanisms for providing help. We are willing to consider establishing a pilot project we could assess.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Are we talking about a separate entity, a free-standing birthing centre?

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have thought of affiliating one with a hospital.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is that the one that has to do with St. Michael's Hospital?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, that is one of the options that has been put before us.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Under the former government, there was no interest in exploring these alternatives, so they looked at second best or third best. There was certainly nothing close to their first choice, which is a free-standing birthing centre based on the model used in several places in the United States. There is one in New York, and there are a couple in Detroit.

When will a definitive statement be made about how we are going to proceed with this? It is worth a pilot project. It may not be successful, but certainly the American experience has been fairly positive.

Hon. Mr. Elston: This pilot project would be different in style to those in the United States.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In what way?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Instead of a free-standing clinic this would have an affiliation or an association.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You are not willing to look at the free-standing concept?

Hon. Mr. Elston: For the pilot project I would like to see how it operates under the proposals put before us. If we have to go out and look at a different proposal it will be a lot longer coming to us. I suspect that later next month we will have a theory about the pilot project.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Even if it is affiliated with a hospital, would you be looking at a mechanism whereby the hospital board does not necessarily totally control the birthing centre? There could be an advisory committee with some powers that would be setting policy for the birthing centre. My fear is there would be no big change in philosophy if a hospital board was in charge.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is an interesting observation. The group met in July, and we are waiting for a reworked proposal from that meeting. It is coming to us very shortly. I cannot be definite on the timing of an announcement until we get the material and review it. Your suggestion about community involvement apart from the board is interesting. We will see what the proposal provides for us to consider.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: One of the options I thought worth considering was looking at it under the—I was going to say legislation, but there is no legislation—community health centre concept. There are different types, and under type two or three it would be possible to proceed in this direction.

I would be concerned if a hospital board had control, because we would then be heading towards having birthing rooms which would have the same philosophy as is followed in hospitals. I am happy to hear you are not rejecting the concept out of hand.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The other important item to understand is that if you use the community health centre model that you have to work hard to put it in place, or you have to attach it to an existing model, and that changes the philosophy the community originally wanted and puts extra demands on the community operation.

This is the approach you would take to establish a new community response to health care, rather than adding bits and pieces to community health centres. It is my understanding from going out and looking at them they should be integrated and co-ordinated when you put the services together, or at least have the board moving that way. You cannot interject bits and pieces from outside and expect them to be successful.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Community-based.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, community-based. You have to have the board growing. The members have to make it work. Those centres are effective because of the commitment of the community.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We have a commitment from a large number of people in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But it may not be the community that surrounds a particular centre.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You mean the neighbourhood.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The neighbourhood, yes.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is it possible that the community health centre approach does not have to be neighbourhood defined? It can be a wider community in one sense.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I am saying is technically what we have are neighbourhood-type communities responding currently to set up those mechanisms. For us to inject a brand new community on that centre which is not—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We would have to be talking about a new centre.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, and one of the things that causes me some concern is if we are going to have a pilot project we examine it reasonably quickly. Community health centres do not grow overnight. It takes a long time to develop the community. Looking at health needs from the standpoint of providing only a particular service is not the concept of a community health centre. That is what I am saying. You just cannot throw it into a community health centre and expect the board, even though it is community oriented, to necessarily be able to handle it in an effective and efficient manner.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We will just hope that if we go in this direction you will at least look at a community board, or a board outside the hospital board if it is affiliated with a hospital, so we can get a true evaluation of a different approach to birthing than the approach used in hospitals currently. Otherwise, with just the hospital board in control, I do not know if you will get a true evaluation of this type of alternative.

Let me ask a question on another issue I have difficulty with as well. I am not advocating that hundreds of new doctors be put into the system but I have certainly met on a regular basis with the foreign doctors' association on their problems with getting internships. I believe they have met with the minister as well.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What group was that? There is not just one group. There are a couple of parts to the association and there are individuals I have met as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I cannot remember how much it costs for a new doctor to come into the system. Is it \$500,000?

Dr. Dyer: Depending on the doctor, \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I understand that difficulty. I also understand we have some highly trained people who in some cases are working as orderlies or who in some cases are on welfare. At the same time we have some pockets in the province where we do not have adequate numbers of doctors. Overall, I know we have a higher ratio of doctors across the province than we need. Is there any review going on within the ministry to see if this problem can be resolved to any extent so these highly trained people can use some of the skills they bring to this country and this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: One of the problems with providing the access to these people is the fact we have about 690 positions available in the province for internships and residencies and we had 1,027 people register last year. Of those 1,027, approximately 600 were graduates of Ontario medical schools. You can see the pressure for the positions.

There is a very keen competition to get those intern and residency positions. The Ministry of Health does not control the placement of the individuals in those positions. Hospitals hire the people. From that standpoint, we cannot determine that any particular person, even if there is an expansion in the number of intern and residency positions available, would be placed with so many extras qualified for the positions currently available.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The only thing you could do is find more positions.

Hon. Mr. Elston: More and more and more positions. As of now, in fact, we have a number of people who are taking positions sponsored by foreign governments. We even have a number of positions that are unfunded.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am aware of that.

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: People will take those unfunded positions to get into an intern's position and then after a certain length of time will write and indicate we should pay them. The people who are with the professional association representing the people who are in resident and intern

positions say they would like to enforce the situation starting next year such that no unpaid positions be allowed. How that is to be done they did not tell me, but they said they were going to enforce that there be no unpaid positions.

From that standpoint, that may mean there will be even more pressure on those who are trying to get access to the system.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Has the ministry discussed this problem with the Minister of Employment and Immigration from time to time? One of the major problems is that when people have come into this country they have not understood there was absolutely no guarantee or likelihood they would get positions.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They write an examination, which establishes they are qualified or at least that they have been trained as physicians, and they expect that once they receive permission to come they have a right to find an intern's position. The opportunity is to have the right to apply for the positions. They are not all accepted.

Under the current situation with the number of registrants that occurred last year, 1,027, you know they all are not going to be in receipt of those positions.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I do not know whether there is a process that could be put in place.

Hon. Mr. Elston: To finish off on the part about immigration, when we talked with the couple of groups representing foreign-trained medical students, the indication was they thought something should be done about that part. They may be making representations separately. I am not sure, but the Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Ontario made that point as well.

Together, all those submissions may have some impact, but I cannot guarantee there will be an impact with the immigration people at all.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I am not an expert in immigration but one of the things the ministry might consider is that in discussions with the Ministry of Employment and Immigration there either be a form or something that people sign to acknowledge that there will be a major problem in receiving placement. There is no guarantee when they come into this country that they are going to be able to practice their profession.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That may deal with people who are not Canadian citizens, but we have a number of graduates of foreign medical schools who are Canadian citizens and Ontario residents. That also has some built-in problems. I understand your point; and that was also suggested by

the Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Ontario, as well as by the graduates of foreign medical schools I have met.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: It is a problem worth considering. The numbers are substantial but not huge.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There are 435 graduates of foreign medical schools right now.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I am certainly not suggesting in one year we could take in more than 400 foreign medical graduates.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I am also looking at is the trend in the number of registrants in the system in addition to the 435.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I recognize we already have some people who have had some education and perhaps even look at some decreases in other areas of our educational system. Maybe we do not need as many graduates. There is, due to the multicultural nature of Ontario, some expertise these individuals have that can meet the needs of an ethnic community. Students from minority groups are not well represented in our medical schools in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But obviously any response in terms of education has got to be Canadian in nature because of the fact we have medical schools here. Merely cutting down the number of graduates we have in Ontario does not solve the problem, nor does the problem find resolution if we fail to deal with the international side of things. If we cut down the number of positions, there will be far more pressure for Canadian citizens to find international education.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is a very difficult issue.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No question.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The only thing I would suggest is it should be examined even more closely to see if there is any way we can deal with the concerns of some of the individuals who are already in our province. It does seem a shame that people who have medical degrees are working as orderlies or on welfare etc. If they bring this expertise to the province it just is not being utilized.

Mr. Hennessy: On the same question, your government announced the other day that you are going to offer incentives to physicians to work up north; \$40,000 salaries and all these bonuses you are giving them. The Conservative government had more or less the same program to which you just added on. It was very difficult to get people to go up to northwestern Ontario to practice. I cannot see why there is an overflow when you

have all these jobs vacant up in Armstrong and places like that where they cannot get physicians or they cannot get specialists to locate up there. They stay up there for a year and then they come back here where there is more room for them.

I cannot see why there is a difficulty in people getting positions or practicing if all these jobs up in northwestern Ontario are there for the asking, plus all the bonuses they are going to get, plus the fees they are going to get, and other things entailed in it. I cannot see why there should be people working as orderlies if they have the qualifications to be placed in northwestern Ontario. At least they would get a start.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They can get a start, and I think that you struck the right key when you said it is easy to get a start undertaken, but then you have to hold on to people. As you rightly pointed out, our announcement the other day provides some incentive which would include some money for capital costs.

Mr. Hennessy: Our government tried the same thing, and it did not work. Perhaps you added more to it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right. We did. What we also provided was a payment that would allow reimbursement of specialists for travel time, professional time when they were making tours to outlying areas.

Mr. Hennessy: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That was not in the previous announcement. In any event, your concern—

Mr. Pope: I put it there.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Maybe somebody did not understand your direction, Mr. Pope, because our indication was that it was not there.

Mr. Pope: Well, people—

Hon. Mr. Elston: In any event, I am not going to argue about that.

Mr. Pope: I am not arguing, but people only read what they want to read.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The concern that Mr. Hennessy brought out is the fact that you have to keep the people in the area and we are looking at having specialists establish their practices in those areas and providing them with some ability to establish firm referral patterns which will help as well.

The difficulty, though, and we are speaking of it here, is entering that specialist training system, because we cannot just take a person out of medical school and establish them in a practice.

There is a requirement to be interned, and if you are going to go and spend some residency—

Mr. Hennessy: Excuse me. Mr. Cooke has said there are qualified people who work as interns and then he painted a picture as black as possible. I am saying that if they have those qualifications they should at least be interviewed and given the opportunity.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Those people who come and are qualified as specialists can be placed. In fact those people are recruited by Dr. W. J. Copeman. His program has been ongoing for some time. The people we are talking about, graduates of foreign medical schools, require access to internship and residency programs.

Mr. Hennessy: Would it not be better to have somebody who had some knowledge of the medical profession than to have nobody at all?

11 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, I think I would want to continue to ensure that we got quality trained people and under those requirements I would want them to go through our system here. We are currently involved in an inquest with respect to difficulty in an operation which resulted when the resident was involved in the operation and a death ensued. I think that we would want to be sure that quality instruction and training was provided for those people who have graduated from medical schools and have medical school knowledge, but who have not yet received the practical training.

I as the minister am not willing to place graduates of medical schools in the field as practitioners if they have not gone through the training programs.

Mr. McKessock: A supplementary on that: is there any stipulation they might obtain one of the intern positions if they did take a position up north or in another part of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That cannot be one of the criteria for getting into the intern and residency positions.

Mr. McKessock: Did you say it cannot be?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It cannot be because they have to be judged on the basis of the merit contained in the application for the positions. As you saw, we have 1,027 applying for about 600 and some odd positions; 675 or so were hired in the province last year. They cannot say, "Give me a position because I will go to Armstrong." They have to say, "Give me a position because I am the best person applying for the positions available."

Mr. McKessock: I wondered if that could be part of the criteria. Certainly you want the most qualified but it would be one way of getting people to fulfil part of the obligation of the profession to Ontario if they were to say, "Yes, I will go up north for a certain length of time if I obtain an intern position."

Hon. Mr. Elston: The deputy was indicating that the underserviced area program, in effect, does that but it does not place people in intern positions. They just place specialists.

Mr. McKessock: What was the \$250,000 to \$500,000 figure related to that which Dr. Dyer mentioned earlier?

Dr. Dyer: It has been estimated that each new physician who gets a licence to practise and bills the Ontario health insurance plan adds \$250,000 to \$500,000 a year to the costs of health care.

Mr. McKessock: Through the OHIP payments.

Dr. Dyer: In hospital pressures, lab test requirements and everything else. It costs about that much, depending on the type of specialty. The range is between \$250,000 and \$500,000 per year which is generated in costs to the health care system by each physician who is granted an OHIP billing privilege.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a couple of questions on vote 1. I want to get a better idea about this office of health promotion; is that Steve Podborski's group?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, it is not. The office of health promotion is under Dr. Boyd Suttie. Steve Podborski's group is an external group. It has some secretarial support from the office of health promotion, but it is not part of the office of health promotion.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When you look at the description on page 18 of what this group does, and then at the description under communication and information branch on page 32, there seems to be an indication that they do a lot of the same things. What is the difference between the communication and information branch and the office of health promotion; and how much overlap is there in these two groups?

So you can answer both questions at once, I think this is a traditional question we ask and that my predecessor, Ross McClellan, asked. Are you planning on advertising the premium assistance program any more than the previous government did so the people actually know it exists? Maybe you can give us the stats on what the take-up figure is now.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am having a hard time trying to tie those two things together.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I assume they are done under the—

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not regret you have asked the question, it is just hard to tie them together. When I was trying to think of what your next question was going to be I thought that health promotion was going to be tied in with the next question, but it really is not.

First, the whole area of health promotion has grown quite quickly and there are a number of groups in the health care field that are trying to find their place in it. The office of health promotion is new and is attempting to develop strategies to promote health and, in a sense, generate material which the public can consume from the standpoint of programs on health, lifestyle and that type of thing. The Podborski group is an advisory group to the minister.

I am attempting to co-ordinate the activities of a number of areas so that we can come together and develop a more co-ordinated and consolidated approach to health promotion and the generation of material.

I indicated in the action centre speech that I gave, on October 3 I think it was, some areas where we were attempting to make headway with respect to award mechanisms for health promotion opportunities. These come through the minister's office of health promotion as opposed to through the communications branch, to which you compared it and about which you were asking the difference.

There is some implementation here in the office of health promotion. It is coming together, and the way in which we are going to promote health in Ontario is starting to crystallize.

The second part of the question was on whether I am going to do more or less advertising. We cannot do any more advertising than those guys did.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, but there is advertising and there is advertising. One problem has been that a lot of people are not aware of premium assistance.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not considered doing more advertising about premium assistance from the standpoint that I have not turned my mind to it. I will consider it and try to make as much information available as possible. We did that through my office and I guess it is a bias I have that when I serve people in the riding of Huron-Bruce through my office that is one of the first items I ask.

When I take a look at how the system works in my home area, I get referrals to the office from physicians' offices where they find that perhaps somebody has a number that has lapsed or is not able to produce a card. I get those people and we can look after them. I often receive referrals from hospitals as well.

Unless they happen to be interested in the whole idea that they might be able to get premium assistance, people do not turn their minds specifically to looking at advertisements about premium assistance. I do not know how I can answer that question but I am willing to consider it.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Do you know what the take-up figure is? There have been figures presented to us in other estimate years.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know what the take-up figure is now but we can find that out for you.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Could you get that? It has always been quite low.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There are, of course, a number of people who automatically come on to premium assistance through social programs, seniors for instance.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am always amazed at people in low income areas. We do the same thing in our constituency office but it is very ad hoc. A lot of people are missed. Everybody phones. If they do not know there is such a program they obviously are not going to phone to find out.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Sometimes until people go to use their OHIP card, until they actually require services, they do not turn their minds to the whole area.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There are a lot of people who will not go to see a doctor because they figure they have not paid their OHIP premiums. They cannot afford it so they figure they had better not go to a doctor.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We can examine the numbers, as you have requested, and ask what might be an effective advertising program, if there is such a thing.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There is a question now under the Canada Health Act about what would happen if people did not pay their premiums. I am not sure you could force people to pay their premiums and not get coverage. I am not a lawyer; you are. Maybe you read the law differently, but that is my understanding of the Canada Health Act.

Could I get an update of what progress has been made under your affirmative action program?

11:10 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will have to look at specifics. If you will allow me a minute or two I will see what information I have here. I know we will be looking at some initiatives with the women's directorate under the auspices of the Honourable Ian Scott, so there are some things in the offing which will be coming very soon.

I can give you some information from the notes which have just been provided to me. All but three occupational groups now exceed the 30 per cent target established by the Ministry of Health.

The executive compensation group is below target. We have corrections, that is, the attendants at Oak Ridge, the maximum security facility at Penetanguishene, and maintenance staff. In health, the percentage of women in the executive compensation group is only 15.8 per cent. In corrections, it is only five per cent. In maintenance, it is 9.9 per cent. All other groups are above the 30 per cent target that was established.

We have about 65 per cent women in the ministry; the current complement is 10,802 employees.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Of the 65 per cent, an awful lot would be in secretarial positions, I take it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In psychiatric hospitals we have a lot of nursing people and so forth. That is where the bulk are. The affirmative action program has a staff of seven, by the way.

The deputy minister has pointed out examples of promotions. From 1982 to 1985, there have been four additions to the executive compensation plan, three assistant administrators at psychiatric hospitals, two senior financial officers and seven senior systems officers. We have two women administrators at our psychiatric hospitals, 10 women were hired at Oak Ridge, otherwise there would be considerably fewer than five per cent, and we have one management auditor. We have been making some progress in recent years to hire women in senior and other positions that they have not been in traditionally.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is safe to say it has been pretty slow though.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot comment on the past.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: A lot of these questions are just to find out what the status is today so we can measure you next year.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Fair enough.

Mr. Pope: Are you going to change it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not considered it at the moment. I had not met with anybody before the draft of the new policy was implemented.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not so sure whether homes for special care should come under the first vote or whether you want to do that later. I just want an update of where we are with the triministry program and the transfer of residents out of special care homes.

I gather the transfer of responsibility to the Ministry of Community and Social Services has not been started yet.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have been having meetings and there are some concerns about the development of facilities that would allow the transfers. I cannot tell you the exact status. There have been a number of meetings and I have discussed eliminating the historical problems. David Corder may have some more specific information on it. David is the administrator.

Mr. Corder: Discussions are currently under way with the Ministry of Community and Social Services dealing with the mentally retarded and developmentally handicapped in the nursing home population. Those discussions have been under way for several months. We expect there will be a plan developed within the next few months.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: This has been raised in estimates for quite some time. What are the target dates? When do you expect to transfer responsibility?

Mr. Corder: The plan should be available to the Ministry of Health in February for consideration of the management committee of the ministry. It would also need to be considered by the management committee of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

I cannot tell you what the target date is to begin the movement.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Do you have any proposals as to how you are going to deal with the owners of these facilities as people are moved out and beds become vacant? Have you done anything about not filling those beds as they become vacant?

Mr. Corder: That issue is currently part of the discussions with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and options will be considered for those beds that will be vacated, but what those options might be has not been decided.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Options are going to be developed but there are no options.

Mr. Corder: I guess that is not a very good way to say it. There are several options. When a bed is vacated, do you fill it with a similar type of person? Do you fill it with a different kind of person or do you let the bed go vacant? Those decisions have not yet been made.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: This is going to be a policy question obviously of how the minister is going to deal with it, but would it not be reasonable—

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not only the minister.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, I realize that. Is it not fair to say, since this has been in the works for some time, that operators have had a responsibility to anticipate what was going to happen and that they should have planned accordingly as business people when beds were going to be vacant?

One of the concerns I have is that I gather as beds become vacant, people are still being moved in; adult mentally handicapped individuals are being moved in. We do not seem to have made much progress in this area to date.

Mr. Corder: From the point of view of the homes for special care policy, there have not been new admissions in that category. However, I understand that some developmentally handicapped people have been placed privately in the homes in question, but not through the government program. There have been developmentally handicapped people whose families wish to place them there and have done so privately. We have not placed them there through the homes for special care program as a government initiative.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If there are no alternatives, it is difficult for families to look at any.

Mr. Corder: I am sorry. I cannot speak to the alternatives for the developmentally handicapped. I am not aware of them in the context of this program. I do not know what else the Ministry of Community and Social Services has for the developmentally handicapped.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Where does it stand on the whole range of priorities for the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was one that was brought to my attention early and I have continued with the meetings which attempt to address the long-standing problem. I am in support of the continuing meetings.

We have to be sure, however, that we have the best available services for those people before we move people any place. That is an ongoing problem we have with respect to establishing those services; and of course the Ministry of Community and Social Services has a very

important role to play in setting up all those programs.

I am intent on seeing a resolution to the problem. David Corder and I have been discussing it on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Pope: Can you tell me if you have met with the Minister of Community and Social Services on what are called boundary issues within your ministry? If so, how often have you met with him? I also would like to know your assessment of how the 1985 agreement between the two ministries is working. The agreement called for joint planning of extended care, a case management approach to the community support services and control over eligibility for extended care.

11:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That question is partly different from the one Mr. Cooke had raised. The Minister of Community and Social Services and I have talked a number of times about dealing with boundary issues, turf wars in some situations, and we are determined to alleviate the tensions which have been caused by various programs. With respect to extended care, that agreement has been modified to an extent by the activities of the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Van Horne) in his study of extended care in relation to services for seniors. There is no difficulty between Mr. Sweeney and me and the staff at all levels in discussing the co-ordination of programs and putting together co-ordinated services, either for extended care or other programs. I do not know how many times we have met.

Mr. Pope: Are you implementing the January 1985 agreement? Are you building on that? Is that your approach?

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to extended care, as you know Mr. Van Horne is bringing in a series of recommendations through his analysis of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, such as health and housing, programs and otherwise. We will be looking at his recommendations. I cannot anticipate what recommendations will flow from that, and our entire response to providing services will be built upon Mr. Van Horne's recommendations.

Mr. Pope: In the meantime, are you implementing the January 1985 agreement between the two ministries?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are continuing to discuss a lot of the issues outlined in that agreement, let us put it that way. I cannot tell you we are implementing all parts or what parts we are doing. Mr. Van Horne's staff, for instance, is

made up of people whom he has chosen independently but also includes individuals who have been seconded from both the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health to work at co-ordinating the services. These people are familiar with these agreements. I am sure the whole issue will be addressed, but not necessarily on the basis of an agreement made under another administration. We have no feeling that we are tied to what you did or what you did not do. In fact, we hope to undo some of the things that were not done properly. We are going to try to co-ordinate it.

Mr. Pope: That is fine. It is your right to do that. I did not ask you that. I gave you three specific examples of how the operations of the ministries of Community and Social Services and Health are being integrated by virtue of a January 1985 memo of agreement.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is a memo of agreement now, is it?

Mr. Pope: Are you doing it? That is all I want to know. Are you doing each of those three things pursuant to the agreement that was reached? Or are you doing a review and therefore putting these things on hold? Either way, I am not after the answer for any particular reason. It is just to get information on where we stand now.

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to co-ordinating services, for instance, we have three deputy ministers who make up a committee that is working on ways of co-ordinating services. I do not know what else to tell you. With respect to the review that has been going on with Mr. Van Horne, we have all these people from the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services working on co-ordinating services, not in an isolated way but in a very public and consultative way, to come to grips with a range of programs which are available. That is how we are addressing it. It is being done on the basis of need that has been generated through public discussions.

In addition, I have taken some steps in my ministry where I have seen difficulties that I have decided should be addressed and eliminated as soon as possible. We are continuing to make things better.

Mr. Wiseman: Are you really reviewing that decision? You are not acting on that decision of January 1985.

Mr. Pope: All you are doing is more planning of extended care with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not being specific enough about the fact that Mr. Van Horne's program goes much beyond what your agreement talks about, considering options. We are looking at recommendations which will provide us with options beyond your January agreement. We will build on those recommendations. That is all I can tell you.

Mr. Pope: In the meantime, you are not implementing the January agreement because you are doing something more than that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are doing something more than that. We are even looking at the organizational options.

Mr. Chairman: May I just take a moment? Mr. Cooke and I would share some of the problems you have, but also we would like to see some action; I, as the Chairman of Management Board for a term, and Mr. Cooke, as a New Democratic Party member. You lawyers, the minister and Mr. Pope, choose your words very carefully. When you were asked whether you were making any progress you said the tensions had been alleviated. What solace is that for Mr. Cooke and me?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot alleviate tensions between you two guys.

Mr. Chairman: No. You said the tensions had been alleviated.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In what way? I am sorry. I am out of context.

Mr. Chairman: What does "tensions alleviated" mean in answer to the question—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you mean between the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Okay. I am sorry. I did not where the tensions were—

Mr. Chairman: They were your words.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, I know, but I did not understand what you were talking about.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What is the state of the turf war?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Sweeney and I get along very agreeably, and I do not see co-ordinating of services as generating the historical tensions. We are looking at it in a very constructive way because Mr. Van Horne's study has been developed with the help of people seconded from both our ministries.

There has been a far better working relationship. I have attended meetings with Mr. Van Horne and Mr. Sweeney and I have also attended

some of the meetings where the three deputy ministers and staff were working together, and I have not encountered any heightening of the turf wars. We are working very constructively together because there was some co-ordination among the groups during the study, as opposed to a study having been done by one group with the result that recommendations might have ramifications for the other.

Mr. Chairman: We are still at roughly the same point. I never had any trouble getting the ministers to agree that something should be done.

Hon. Mr. Elston: All I can tell you is the meetings I have attended have been very constructive. They have been working together very well.

Mr. Pope: Nothing has changed. You do not have joint decisions on qualifications for extended care, so nothing has changed.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No. I do not think that is right.

Mr. Pope: Okay. What has changed?

Mr. Dean: Does Mr. Van Horne's mandate have enough oomph to it to transcend any of these problems that may come up as you get closer to the actual co-ordination of the programs, and so on?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Van Horne has been authorized by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to make this study, to make recommendations to the Premier; and because of the Premier's interest and involvement in this Mr. Van Horne's study has lots of oomph, or whatever you choose to describe that as.

Mr. Wiseman sits back there and says that nothing has changed. We have been working away at a number of changes. We have made changes and will continue to make changes. We will continue to build.

Mr. Wiseman: Tell us what they are.

Hon. Mr. Elston: For instance, if you want to talk about the way we address the extended care issue—Mr. Wiseman, you will know since you have been a government member for some time—we have made changes in the way inspections are done. We have made changes with respect to homes for special care by involving—

Mr. Wiseman: In what way?

11:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are co-ordinating the inspection services. We are in the process now of upgrading regulations which were not enforceable. We have done a lot of things in the last four months to improve and try to build up the quality

of care in nursing homes, for instance, in the extended care beds. You may not want to agree with that, but it has happened and our response to the problems that have been generated through the historical—

Mr. Wiseman: What have you actually done in the inspection branch that is different?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, we will extend you the courtesy of the next few minutes.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Has the minister considered some alternative, some method by which there is a freeze put on admissions for the mentally handicapped to homes for special care? Since we are looking at a jurisdictional—

Hon. Mr. Elston: As Mr. Corder said, that has been done with respect to the government programs. As we understand it, there have been private placements in those beds but not placement through the auspices of government programs. There is a freeze from our standpoint.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: How are they being funded?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Privately, I understand, by contract between the two people.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is not under the Ontario health insurance plan? It is not under the extended care program?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not under our extended care program.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What about individuals who are moved or transferred from one nursing home or home for special care to another? One example that was given to me was of a person who was transferred from Sweetbriar Lodge Nursing Home to the Jann-Lynn Developmental Centre to fill an empty bed.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know that situation.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Those things apparently are going on.

Mr. Corder: I am not aware of that. I do not know.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I know my predecessors and Mr. R. F. Johnston in the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services have raised the whole matter of homes for special care under the triministry program many times. I hope the minister will put this as a top priority. If there ever was an example of inappropriate placements and facilities that do not really meet the needs of the clientele, this is it.

I hope you will see this as a more urgent matter than the former government did so that once and for all we can have some nonprofit, noninstitu-

tional community-based services. I think the nonmedical approach is the direction in which you want to head, especially for these individuals. It certainly is the direction in which we want to head.

Mr. Chairman: Is that it, Mr. Cooke?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a couple of questions on hospitals, but I do not have anything else that I thought could be squeezed in under vote 1.

Mr. Chairman: Proceed.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to get an understanding of what this 8.3 per cent means. I have read the press release several times. I have read the statement in the House on the budget several times and I do not understand what it means.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It means four per cent of the base budget of every hospital and then another 4.3 per cent of the budget will be allocated, but not specifically to every hospital. Some hospitals will get more because there are increases in operation costs as new plant facilities come on line.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I gather that 4.3 per cent has two components as well, is that not right? The new programs have to be funded as well as something that recognizes extra use of hospitals? Does that money cover hospitals that have been using hallways and holding areas where there has not been funding for that extra cost to the hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Randy Reid is the assistant deputy minister in this area.

Mr. Reid: The work load provision recognizes the incremental costs associated with increased volume of inpatients and outpatients. You raised the issue of the Windsor Metropolitan General Hospital, for example. In 1985-86 it received or will receive \$92,000 as a result of increased volume because it was treating more patients under that provision alone.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Some of that is being recognized. I think its deficit is about \$300,000. It will help to some extent. Some of it is in there too.

Is there any money in this to recognize equal pay?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is nothing specifically in there for equal pay.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I know the Canadian Union of Public Employees has been negotiating. It has put one proposal forward of a \$10-minimum per hour as part of its negotiating position, which would alleviate to some extent the problems with

the fact that equal pay does not exist in the hospital sector.

If it was successful or ultimately went to arbitration and an arbitrator ruled that this was a fair proposal or that equal pay should be consistent with or recognized in the budgets, would the ministry's reaction then be to bring in supplementary estimates?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know if that has happened yet. I am not prepared to respond to that when negotiations are under way.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I gather they are not. They are under way, but I do not think they are meeting any longer. If an arbitrator comes down with a higher settlement, we are not going to see hospitals increase their deficits, are we? Obviously the ministry will have to come in to some extent and assist; or are hospitals going to increase deficits?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As has been the past experience, when pressures are generated we look at the hospitals' global budgets and make a response on the basis of their estimates for deficit, needs or whatever. But I am not prepared to comment at this stage in negotiations with respect to one union or any unions as to what might be anticipated when the hypothetical situation does not exist.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not asking for your comment on their specific proposal.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But you really are.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, I am not. I mentioned the \$10 to you. What if an arbitrator makes a determination: are hospitals going to be stuck with a further deficit, which would have dramatic implications for various communities?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The observation you made was that if something occurs there can be a negative impact. However, we do not know what the settlements are. We do not know there is going to be arbitration, although in your recent meetings with CUPE you may have heard a suggestion that its strategy is to go to arbitration. I do not know that yet.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not sure it is their strategy, but they would love to negotiate.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is basically what you have indicated to me. I cannot comment on what an arbitrator is or is not going to do. When we find out what the offers are, what the acceptance or the arbitration is, then we can respond in an intelligent fashion. At this point, I am not willing to go through an exercise based on a broad range of hypothetical questions. I just cannot do that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is there any money in the budget for recognition of equal pay for work of equal value? My understanding is that the green paper treats the public sector in two steps: first, your own direct employees; and second, hospitals, or that they will be taken into consideration in the private sector. If that legislation is passed in this fiscal year is there any money in the budget to fund that? Do we have a guesstimate of what the cost is?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We would need supplementaries.

Mr. Wiseman: We always have taken into consideration the smaller hospitals with fewer than 50 beds and funded them a little higher than the larger ones. In your answer today there was no recognition of that.

Mr. Reid: Hospitals with fewer than 50 acute care beds receive an additional one per cent.

Mr. Wiseman: Five per cent plus any extra use of hospital beds, growth or whatever?

Mr. Reid: Four plus.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just to make sure, that is four per cent plus one per cent.

11:40 a.m.

Mr. Pope: To follow up on Mr. Cooke's question, the four per cent component of the 8.3 per cent is your ministry's estimate of additional operating costs to the hospital, including projected settlements?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. Pope: What is the utilization component?

Hon. Mr. Elston: One per cent.

Mr. Pope: Has that changed from previous years?

Dr. Dyer: Actually it is based on the formula. The hospital submits a formula of its actual work load, the number of cases it has treated; we take that work load and give them a percentage based on variable costs of the work load increase. It is based on their own base. Although it works out to be about one per cent each year, it could be variable, depending on the work load.

Mr. Pope: It varies from hospital to hospital?

Dr. Dyer: Yes. The overall average is one per cent.

Mr. Pope: But the formula has not changed?

Dr. Dyer: The formula has not changed; it caps at two per cent.

Mr. Pope: Yes. I think I remember.

Dr. Dyer: If there is a four per cent increase, it caps at two.

Mr. Pope: Do you have a list of the additional services covered? It is the remainder, the 4.3 per cent. On a hospital-by-hospital basis you allocated additional operating funds for certain services that are being put in place.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have some life support programs and renal dialysis. Do you want to go hospital by hospital? Is that what you are indicating? Or do you just want a list of the services?

Mr. Pope: I do not want to waste your time on it. Perhaps you could give me a list of the additional services. I know you do it hospital by hospital and you allocate money in that way. Perhaps at some point in time you could get me the list.

Hon. Mr. Elston: So you want it hospital by hospital?

Mr. Pope: Yes; where the new services are going.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will provide that list, but I think we should also share it with the other members of the committee.

Mr. Pope: Yes, sure.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to ask the minister about the problem I raised in my opening statement; that is services to head-injured individuals, assessment units and community care programs, which seem to be sorely lacking, and whether there is anything in the works.

I gather there is a proposal to you from Dr. Dornan to improve his program. An improved program in Toronto would be helpful—and I have been able to get one or two people from my community into his current program—but it is not terribly accessible to people throughout the province. It is an incredible problem.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no question that it is a problem. For instance, a young man from my area was at the Dale Home in London for a while. One of the difficulties with the placement of head-injured people is the concern expressed by the parents, who cannot be there, as to how good the care is; then, if there is concern, to try to bring them closer to home.

We have been working with other ministries to facilitate placements. I am not sure how many homes we have altogether.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Could I get a list of the programs that are available?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have no problem in doing that. I do know that in addition to those at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the West Park

Hospital, there is a program at the Riverdale Hospital. However, I will give you a full list of the ones we know of here in the province.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In southwestern Ontario the facility that is used is St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, and they will be the first ones to admit they do not have the services or the professionals to deal with this type of patient.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There are a couple of other places I can mention that are listed in this book. I have examples, but I do not have a full range. For instance, there is the Toronto Ashby House Group for people over 21, and Hamilton Wesley House for 16- to 21-year-olds. London has Cheshire Homes and Dale Home; they are funded by private donations. Then there is Thistle town Regional Centre and the three Toronto facilities I mentioned.

I could give you the list a little later, but those are facilities that are working now. In addition to that, we have a historical committee that was put together in 1978 among the ministries of Health, Correctional Services, Education, and Community and Social Services.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There are not enough community services, but I gather one of the major problems is that if you do not have the proper assessment services first—the Queen Elizabeth facility is, from what I can gather, a good place to get assessed—it is pretty difficult to make any progress in a group home.

There should be a rehabilitation component in the group home as well. The individuals with whom I have dealt have not been properly assessed, and as a result they get placement in a group home, last for maybe one or two days and then they are out on the streets again. Eventually they will not be considered for admission.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The anticipation of what can be done for individuals also has an impact on the expectations of people who place their relatives in these homes. However, I agree with you that proper assessment is crucial to how the people feel with their placement and how they are apt to respond. Certainly, I agree that the assessment is a critical part of the placement.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Dr. Dornan indicated to me that one of the major problems is the waiting period; if he does not have access to a patient until a year or so after his or her injury the chances of rehabilitation are much diminished as opposed to having direct intervention at the time of the injury. That is a real problem.

In the cases of the people I have come across, it has been two or three years after the injury that

families have come to me and said they do not know what to do. I get them on a waiting list, but then we are talking months before we can get placement.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I agree the waiting period is probably going to have an impact on them, but at this stage I do not know anything more than that Dr. Dornan has made a proposal that certain steps be taken and that those are being examined from the standpoint of the Ministry of Health. We are working on addressing some of his concerns.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is one proposal, but I stress the importance of the overall problem. There are a lot of people in Toronto, but there are a lot of people elsewhere in the province and they should not have to go on a waiting list to come all the way to Toronto to be assessed. There has been a decentralized approach, and there have to be services in other communities across the province.

It is an easy problem to put to the side and ignore, because the people involved do not have a lot of political power or political influence. In many cases they are marginal in our society. However, it is a tragic problem that has to be addressed in a more effective way than it has been in the past.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can appreciate your concerns. I have seen individuals go through this situation, not only the patients but also the families of the patients who are trying to ensure as much independence as possible for their relatives. It is a very difficult time for them, and we would like to see something done to address some of their concerns.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have finished, for today anyway.

11:50 a.m.

Mr. Pope: While Mr. Reid is there, perhaps I could jump on the new capital program and ask whether there has been any change in the new project starts for 1985-86, any change in the total health share and any change in the 1985-86 or 1986-87 cash flow requirement on a project-by-project basis.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are you asking me?

Mr. Pope: It does not matter.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know that we can do it project by project on the spur of the moment.

Mr. Reid: You are asking about the two lottery dedications that were made for fiscal year 1985-86. The short answer to each of your questions is no. The composition of lottery

dedication one and two has not been altered. The cash flow scheduling has not been altered. The cost-sharing arrangements between the hospitals and the ministry have not been altered.

Mr. Pope: Has there been any change in the timing of the actual projects?

Mr. Reid: There has been no change in the timing of any project, at least not overtly. We have at least one project that may slip of its own volition, but the others seem to be proceeding, generally speaking, within the time frame we had originally anticipated.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you want to go through the list? We have a list of the projects, including those two, if you want them. Are you concerned?

Mr. Pope: No, I think Mr. Reid has answered the question.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have stayed with those facilities that were on line. I did not think it was fair to interrupt their stint, nor did I intend to interrupt a plan that had been ongoing.

Mr. Pope: I do not want to get into a protracted discussion on a number of other areas that I will come back to this afternoon. I just want to know the status of the core program funding for the health units and what additions have been put in for this current year across the province and on a health-unit-by-health-unit basis. I recall the lists. I do not know where you ended up on the whole thing.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you want an update right now?

Mr. Pope: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Maybe Dr. Blake would be able to provide us with some information on that if you want to do a listing, because as minister I do not have the list available to me.

Mr. Pope: That is fine. Just in general terms before we get into the list, can you tell me what additions have been made to the operating budgets of the health units for the expanded core program in global terms?

Dr. Blake: They have been given up to four per cent of their 1981 approved budgets for core programs, as an annualized figure.

Mr. Pope: Okay. Is that across the board or is that just assigned on a unit-by-unit basis as you develop the additional programs?

Dr. Blake: Each unit is entitled to that much.

Mr. Pope: How do they qualify for it?

Dr. Blake: They put in a submission requesting certain expansions, staff expansions to carry out parts of the core programs.

Mr. Pope: Have you expanded the programs that are eligible as a ministry policy under the current administration?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There has been a release of the possibilities for expansion of core, and we are waiting to get some feedback on it as I understand it.

Mr. Pope: What I am getting at is that my recollection is that it was a high-priority ministry item in the spring. Where does it end up now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think guidelines were sent out. When? In July, Dr. Blake?

Dr. Blake: Yes. They were asked to make their submissions.

Mr. Wiseman: What has happened for the growth areas—and I am thinking of some in my riding—that wanted to add some programs that were available in larger centres that they did not have? Has any money been put into the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville District Health Council for the management of those services?

Dr. Blake: If they are core programs, yes. We are hoping they will get their core programs in.

Mr. Wiseman: Besides the four per cent, is there anything for the new programs they have recommended?

Dr. Blake: Not this year; it is core programs this year.

Mr. Wiseman: You have not dealt with those yet?

Dr. Blake: Some of them have been dealt with; not all of them.

Mr. Wiseman: And turned down?

Dr. Blake: I cannot recall for Leeds-Grenville.

Mr. Wiseman: Have any ridings that have received extended funding that asked for programs similar to the one in the three counties?

Dr. Blake: I cannot remember the specific one from Leeds-Grenville, but I can find out for you. All the health units are concentrating entirely on trying to implement phase 1 of the core programs this year. They know what is coming later on, but the phase 1 programs will be implemented first before they go on to the other areas.

Mr. Pope: What programs are we talking about?

Dr. Blake: There are guidelines out for the core programs for phase 1 covering a variety of areas: community sanitation, family health, prenatal classes and this kind of thing; nutrition programs, preventive dental programs and health education. They do have the material on that to

advise them of the programs that need to be in place.

Mr. Pope: This is under the Health Protection and Promotion Act?

Dr. Blake: Yes.

Mr. Pope: Okay. So you are at phase 1. When do you expect to go into phase 2?

Dr. Blake: The planning document for phase 2 is ready to go out to them, but the recommendation is that they not embark on phase 2 until they have completed phase 1.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is this an appropriate place to ask about equity, public health nurses and hospital nurses? Obviously, the four per cent did not anticipate fairness.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In terms of settlement, those items are discussed at the various boards.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Except that the boards cannot provide equity with hospital nurses if they do not have the money in their budgets, and you control 75 per cent of the budget. We have two on strike now, we have had two others and more are coming on stream.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There are more negotiations going on, and the settlements that are taking place are based on the ability of the local boards to meet requests. They make the decision as negotiators, as local boards. They will have to make that decision.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is a decision that all of us—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If you check Hansard, you will see that your people used to ask the same types of questions. When you control the purse-strings, you control the ability of the board to negotiate. If the ministry wants to bring people up to equity with hospital nurses, which is only fair, then the ministry can do that, as Frank Miller did in 1976.

Hon. Mr. Elston: On a one-time basis he gave a small window for units to get involved; that is correct.

The other thing I might point out in this core program funding is that a supplementary estimate of \$2.6 million was approved in May. It does not appear in our estimate here. That \$2.6 million was approved on May 28, so there was money available for those that is not printed here.

Mr. Pope: Is that in your budget now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes.

Mr. Pope: The \$2.6 million is in. That is what I was trying to recall. Is that all for phase 1?

Dr. Blake: Yes. That is the four per cent for 1985.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That was approved on May 28 and it is now included, but it does not show in the printed material.

Mr. Chairman: We had agreed to recess now

until two o'clock. We will meet from two to four. Mr. Cooke may not be here, but if his party is not represented, we have his permission to proceed in any event.

The committee adjourned at 12 noon.

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From the Ministry of Health:

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Corder, D. W., Assistant Deputy Minister, Mental Health

Dyer, Dr. A. E., Deputy Minister

Reid, R. H., Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutional Health



No. G-5

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Health

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, November 27, 1985
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)

Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)

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Corder, D. W., Assistant Deputy Minister, Mental Health

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, November 27, 1985

The committee resumed at 2:01 p.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 3601, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) did have the odd unanswered question, but I presume that is for another day.

Mr. Pope: I wanted to go into northern health services and the statement the minister made in the Legislature on November 25. I have to ask a series of questions arising out of that statement. It is probably the only political dispute we are going to have during the entire estimates.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Would somebody take that down?

Mr. Pope: Dr. Dyer knows what I am talking about.

I believe your statement and the statement of your parliamentary assistant in Thunder Bay were politically motivated. I say that because I am surprised. I have not detected that in other activities of the Ministry of Health since you became minister. I say they were politically motivated because most of these projects were approved in the spring and were announced on April 18 by the previous Premier.

Having been approved in Management Board to the best of my knowledge, there are two issues that concern me. The first concern is the programs themselves, and the second is what I consider to be unnecessary delay in implementing these programs.

I understand the point of view of your government with respect to decisions that were made between May 2 and the transfer of power. I understood that you were going to review those decisions and commitments. I do not understand what is happening with respect to programs which, from my information, were funded before May 2. It is an argument about the timing of the funding. I still do not understand why you would not free up those funds as a priority for your own ministry and get the programs under way.

It is my understanding that the northern travel assistance program was to be implemented

administratively in the ministry at the beginning of July. I have that by virtue of letters I wrote as a member, without any knowledge as a minister. A response from your senior administrative staff indicated that this program would be starting in July and that the phasing-in of the program would be finished in August.

Why was this program delayed? Why do you now have a startup date of December 1? Why was this money not immediately put to work in the budget of the Ministry of Health and why was the program not under way as soon as you came in as minister?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The reason the program was not implemented in your form was that our program is different. It covers physician-to-specialist referrals. Yours dealt with referrals to teaching hospitals. There were agreements to be put in place which were never put in place. There were certain travel allowances for specialists to go outside their area of practice, reimbursements for lost professional time when they were travelling.

This was a program we did not think had been adequately vetted. There were people who wanted to talk to us. When we went from one place to another in northern Ontario, the people applauded us. I was in Sault Ste. Marie, for instance, and we were applauded as being the first to come and actually talk to people before a program was put together. Physicians, administrators and others said, "Thank goodness you guys have come out to talk to us."

Obviously, there had not been anybody there before with respect to this northern travel program, and we were very pleased with the reception we received. The member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward), the parliamentary assistant, was at four other centres and had the same discussions and exchange of information about the program that was ultimately developed.

We think our program is better co-ordinated. It covers more people. You and I both know that the program the Premier of the day, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), announced in April would not have covered follow-up visits fully. If someone from northern Ontario had cancer, he or she would have received the referral to go down the first time, but he or she would not

have qualified for all the follow-up visits. That is substantially different from what we have. We have covered all the follow-ups. If a person needs a specialist, then he or she needs a specialist, that is medically necessary travel in terms of what we put together.

Our response is a much more complete one. It took us some time because we went to centres such as Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and North Bay, and talked to the people. Involved in the discussions was Dr. W. J. Copeman, who you know has been bringing specialists into the north for some time. In effect, we have a much more complete program than was announced but never really worked up as being part of a government program that was implemented.

We put together an entire package and I think we have a better one as a result of our taking the time to talk to the physicians and administrators, so we could work out some of the difficulties they might see before the program was put in place.

Mr. Pope: With respect, I think you have been giving selective information to this committee just now. On reflection and after proper briefing, perhaps there will be a fuller discussion of this matter.

First of all, our program was not developed in a vacuum.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I did not say that. I just said that you obviously did not go out to the places to which we went, the places with the physicians and the administrators. When I was welcomed in Sault Ste. Marie, the first thing said to me there was, "Thank goodness you guys came."

Mr. Pope: With the greatest of respect, if you think the northern Ontario members, including the Progressive Conservative members of this Legislature, have not been discussing northern health travel with hospital administrators and doctors in the north, you are full of it; we have been.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I acknowledge that.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Pope: Your deputy knows I have spent more time on northern health travel in my career as a member of this Legislature than on any other issue in any other ministry. For you to sit there and try to say that the Progressive Conservative government of the day had not done its homework, had not done its consulting with hospital administrations, doctors, medical practitioners and the public of the north, is just a crock.

There is no issue on which I spent more time throughout the entire eight years of my political

career than this one. I can document meetings in the Ministry of Health with Dr. Dyer going back to 1979 on these issues. I do not need to be lectured by you about the fact that we had not talked to anyone in the north.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no lecture going on. I took special pains to point out that I was thankful for the involvement of the 15 northern members in the development of this program. I have mentioned that. It is uncharacteristic for past ministers even to acknowledge that other members exist outside the development of the policy process of a government party. That was the past standard and it is one I will not continue with.

I am not minimizing the impact of individual members. There also happens to have been a lot of work done by the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), from the New Democratic Party, and the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy). There was an awful lot of work done by a lot of people. I have never minimized that.

Mr. Pope: The truth of the matter is you have correctly given credit to Mr. Foulds. That has been it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No. I said during the statement in the House that I expressed thanks to the 15 northern members for their considerable contribution.

Mr. Pope: I have read your statement.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You may want to disagree with my providing that sort of thank-you to them. It is not in that statement. I made the comment in the House. It is in Hansard and you will have to read it there. While making my remarks in Sudbury, I invited the two members who were there to come to the front and be with me at the time of the announcement. I thanked them for their participation.

I have never said this was an exclusive program, but I will say this. We implemented it; it is starting in December; it is much fuller than you had contemplated, and it is being done. The bottom line is that it is being done.

Mr. Pope: We will get into how much fuller it is in a minute. I want to know why you did not proceed with what you term "inadequate transportation policies" of the past government when money was available in the Ministry of Health budget the day you walked into that ministry.

You put this project on hold. You could have been providing transportation assistance to the people of northern Ontario during the past six months. You decided to review the policy. That is your prerogative as minister. If you come out

with a better policy, God bless you. In the meantime, northerners' travel costs were not being paid and you had an obligation at least to go with the existing program until you made the changes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just one second. You are being very selective in the information you are providing. You know there are various other components, which you pointed out before. The emergency travel costs were being paid and the interhospital transfers were being looked after. That has always been the fact.

Mr. Ward: I would like to add some comments at some point.

Mr. Pope: Go ahead.

Mr. Ward: You made some reference to my involvement in the announcement. Over the course of the past three or four months, I have spent a lot of time reviewing what had taken place in the past and what the position of the other parties was.

The one thing that impressed me from the outset was that there was a well-known commitment on the part of the New Democratic Party to the Foulds resolution. I do not doubt for a minute your commitment and your party's commitment to a program of providing travel assistance for northern residents.

I reviewed the material that was available. I have in front of me a copy of the statement on April 18 of the then Premier, Frank Miller, announcing a program based on admission, as far as I can see, to southern teaching hospitals. The patients would be reimbursed by those hospitals. There was no administrative structure in place and no agreement in place with those hospitals to administer such a program.

The estimated annual cost of that program was \$1.5 million a year. If anybody feels there is no difference in the programs, I point out that the estimated annual cost of the program we are proceeding with will be \$10 million next year, increasing to \$13 million a year later.

I do not belittle whatever intentions you had in the first place. I sincerely believe they were good, but we felt the program could be made that much better and could be enhanced. There is no limit in regard to southern teaching hospitals. It can be any hospital in Ontario. One of the concerns I had was that I did not want those services that were available in major centres in the north to be overflowed by residents. That would have badly undermined the northern health services that exist at present. That is a major difference.

The program you contemplated for subsequent visits provided for a grant on a sliding scale for a maximum of up to \$200. It was felt that if medically necessary care was needed for subsequent visits, then there was no reason for the resident to be penalized. Further, I do not believe the program you contemplated included specialists. It required admission to a hospital, and we did not want to make the program that restrictive.

Whatever work had gone on prior to that, whether by the NDP through its policy papers and some of the studies it conducted, whether through your work and your efforts as Minister of Health, and whatever packages you had available, was completely reviewed. As for a program being in place after April 18, it bewilders me why an intent to proceed with such a program was included in Mr. Miller's throne speech on June 4, some six weeks after the April 18 announcement.

I submit that the program contains many of the elements your government had contemplated but that it is significantly different, particularly with respect to northern travel. I sincerely believe the program has been greatly enhanced.

As a further point, with respect to the input we received, one of the reasons I wanted Mr. Hennessy and Mr. Foulds to be with me last Monday in Thunder Bay was to stress and underline that there had been a lot of co-operation and commitment on the part of all three parties.

Mr. Wiseman: May I get a clarification on this? Maybe Mr. Pope asked it, but the program was put in place by the previous government—

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, it was not.

Mr. Wiseman: The money and everything was there to carry it on.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The money was never in a budget of the Ministry of Health. There were some allocations of money to the Ministry of Northern Affairs but there was never anything available in the budget for the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Wiseman: Wherever the money was—

Mr. Pope: Come on.

Mr. Wiseman: I understood it was in there.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was not.

Mr. Wiseman: If the money was there, we have been playing around with people's lives a bit, whether the Tory plan was a good one, or the Liberal one or the NDP or whatever it was. What about the poor people up there? Are you prepared to pay for any expenses they have had from the time the program was announced by the Premier of the day?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I reject your suggestion that we were playing around with anybody's life. We were not playing around.

Mr. Wiseman: No, but you had the money somewhere, in the Ministry of Northern Affairs or in the Ministry of Health, to do it and you neglected to do it, and the Premier of the day announced it. I am not a northerner, but I look out for the rights of as many people in Ontario as I can.

I am asking if you are prepared to pay the hardship costs incurred during the five months you took to bring in this new program. Are you prepared to pay them the out-of-pocket expenses they would get under this program or the program of the previous government?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The program is not retroactive.

Mr. Wiseman: Why did you not say that in your statement? You actually screwed the public for five months while you were doing this.

Mr. Ward: There was no program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The other thing you might want to consider, Doug, is that our program will provide people with real compensation.

Mr. Wiseman: It is not helping those people the Premier announced would be helped.

Mr. Chairman: I think we should keep this in order and not have two people talking at once.

Mr. Wiseman: I take it you are not going to help those people. If we tell people you had something in place that may not be as enriched as the program that is in now, but you are not prepared to help them—

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was not in place. There were no agreements. There were no administrative abilities to put this thing in operation. Nothing had occurred to make this any more available to the people of northern Ontario than when the Premier of the day announced it on April 18. The plan was not there. That is not making a policy.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Wiseman: It has been my experience that by the time the Premier, whoever he is, makes an announcement that has passed Management Board of Cabinet and gone through, it is up to the ministry to enact that. I do not know what might happen if your Premier made an announcement and you did not follow it through. The Premier does not just pull an announcement out of a hat and say, "This is what is going to happen." There is a lot of work to it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In 1981 your government indicated there would be a home care program, but this still has not happened and you have had

five years to work on it. Listen, you have announced a number of things.

Mr. Wiseman: I am not talking about that program; I am talking about this one. Let us have some answers.

Mr. Chairman: Let the minister finish, please.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You have made announcement after announcement on a number of policies, even made commitments of funds once in a while, and never got the programs off the ground.

Mr. Wiseman: Back that up with which ones that were.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wiseman, have you finished?

Mr. Wiseman: I did not receive an answer other than that the people are out on a limb for about five months and you are not prepared to bail them out.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There was no program then. There is a program as of December 1.

Mr. Wiseman: You admitted there was money either in the Ministry of Northern Affairs and Mines or someplace else, and there seemed to be a dispute whether it was in the Ministry of Northern Affairs and Mines or in the Health ministry. You have the prerogative, as Mr. Pope said earlier, to change the direction, enrich the program or whatever, but I think you have an obligation to cover those people.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot put a program into operation that was not in operation, and that is the final word.

Mr. Wiseman: Do you deal with everything by saying "That is the final word"?

Mr. Ward: I want to reiterate that I travelled to Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and North Bay. I met with everyone who is involved with the delivery of health care in those areas, hospital administrators, specialists and district health councils. It amazes me that if there was a program in place, not one of them knew about it.

Frankly, I do not believe there was a program in place. The program that perhaps had been contemplated by the previous minister and the previous government was by way of written agreements with southern teaching hospitals. The agreements and the mechanisms were not in place to deliver any program.

Mr. Pope: Now we will get into some detail on this issue and we will see. Are you saying there was no allocation of \$1.5 million to the Ministry of Health budget for northern transport-

tation made by the Management Board of Cabinet in May 1985?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am advised that there was not.

Mr. Pope: Then I think there is going to have to be some further discussion of this in another forum because I know for a fact that is not true.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was in the Ministry of Northern Affairs and Mines.

Mr. Pope: There is \$1.5 million in Northern Affairs for northern health travel?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Apparently there was an allocation in May some time.

Mr. Pope: It was then based on a Management Board submission of the Ministry of Health?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know.

Mr. Pope: Okay. Now that we have established there is \$1.5 million in the budget for northern health travel, can we establish what the criteria for this program were that you declined to implement since July of this year?

By the way, I have letters from senior administration, who are here in this room today, admitting that the program was there and the administrative services would be put in place by the month of July. Those are letters that I wrote as a local member dealing with people who were submitting accounts for travel costs out of my constituency office. The reply I got, because I was not Minister of Health at the time, was that the administration of the program would be completed in the month of July and then the program would continue and be in operation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: When did you receive those letters?

Mr. Pope: In June.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In June? It is not unusual for you to have written a lot of letters in June, at the tail end of your tenure.

Mr. Pope: Do not give me that. We just proved that there was \$1.5 million for a northern health transportation system, something you tried to deny five minutes ago. So we just proved there was money allocated which was not used to provide service to the people of northern Ontario and I want to know why.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Because the program was not there.

Mr. Pope: It is your obligation as minister to establish the program. The dollars were there for it. It was an initiative announced by the government. You decided you would review the program. That is fine. If you come up with a better program, in your terminology, fine, but

why deny northerners access to travel at subsidized cost during this time period? I cannot accept that. I do not understand why you would do it.

I will give you a copy of the letter. As I said, it comes from someone in this room and it was sent to me in my official capacity as an MPP. I cannot understand why northerners were denied this transportation allowance while you came up with a better program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: One thing you had better also tell the people of the north is that there was no travel being provided for those people from a general practitioner to a specialist; that in fact it dealt with transfers to teaching hospitals in southern Ontario.

Mr. Pope: I am going to get to that in a minute.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is my understanding. This program will provide for people who are referred from a general practitioner to a specialist in wherever—it could be from Armstrong to Thunder Bay or to southern Ontario—it would not only cover that first referral but it would also cover follow-ups. Your program would not cover follow-ups. In fact, the sliding scale would not even have provided the level of compensation which is provided under our program.

Mr. Pope: That is all very well and we will get to that in a second, but I want you to finally admit that you spent six months designing your own program and in the meantime northerners were denied travel assistance when it was due to them. That is all I want to get from you. I also want some explanation as to why you will not now make it retroactive.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I have done is provide travel for people who were not even thought of under the program that you are talking about.

Mr. Wiseman: We are not talking about the Cadillac plan; why did you not put the Chev one through?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Because it was not there, there were no agreements, nothing was in place.

Mr. Pope: The fact of the matter was you did not do it.

Mr. Wiseman: Why do you not reimburse them for what our program would have paid them?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Because you did not do it; you did not implement the program.

Mr. Wiseman: It is there.

Mr. Hennessy: We are not arguing about what we did. You are the government, it is what you did.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have a program in place and the program is there.

Mr. Hennessy: Why not make it retroactive? A lot of people are going to get hooked for a lot of money. I had a man come to see me the other day who can ill afford it. He was very shabbily dressed. He has to come down here on November 27 and he is going to miss it because it starts December 1. Since the election took place on May 2, it should have been retroactive to then. If we get a raise, we damned well make sure that it is retroactive for six or seven months, so why should this program not go back? It is not going to cost you that much money.

Hon. Mr. Elston: How far do we go back?

Mr. Hennessy: Back to the election day, when you made the promise.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do we go back to 1979 when Mr. Pope first started working on this?

Mr. Hennessy: We are talking about your government, sir, with all due respect. You cannot blame King Clancy for the way the Maple Leafs are playing now. Let us be honest about it, that is wearing a little thin.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But you can blame the way they are performing now on deals that were made in 1968 and 1969.

Mr. Hennessy: All I am trying to say is just be fair to them.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Pope and I can agree to disagree on a number of items.

Mr. Pope: Is the northern transportation policy you have announced being funded through the Ministry of Northern Affairs, or whatever its name is now.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No.

Mr. Pope: Is it being provided through the Ministry of Health? Under what legislation?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Under the Ministry of Health Act. Do you support the programs?

Mr. Pope: Did you contemplate any coverage under the Ontario health insurance plan?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, we felt the program in operation, by referring physicians and then the patients applying for reimbursement directly to the ministry, was a better way of covering it.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Pope: This program, compared to the program that was ultimately developed—not the one announced on April 18, but the one that was actually funded by Management Board in the previous government—was not just referrals to teaching hospitals but also referrals to designated

health centres. How many specialists do not operate out of designated hospitals or teaching hospitals in this province; what is the difference?

Hon. Mr. Elston: From office to office, you mean; what are the numbers?

Mr. Pope: How many of these specialists do not carry on their practices out of hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We anticipated that most of the first referrals would go directly to offices rather than to hospitals on a number of occasions, so I cannot give you numbers. I just do not know. Specialists do have operations outside of hospitals. What is your number?

Mr. Pope: I am just trying to get some answers.

I would like to talk about the billing procedures. My understanding is that the patient will have to get an application form signed by the referring doctor and then by the specialist—

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. Pope: —and then is going to be reimbursed for expenses already incurred. Why would you not allow the patient to apply to the nearest OHIP office and allow OHIP to deal with the documents and remove that administrative burden from the patient?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Because the patient is there first and the quickest response is between physician and patient. It seemed the fastest way to get the reimbursement, to my mind anyway.

Mr. Hennessy: Could you not issue an airline pass to a person to go down and pick up a ticket and bill the ministry for it without having him pick up the stub? If he happens to lose the stub, you have an argument over whether he made the trip or not. Would it not be better, if you are paying for transportation—

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have information, of course, about whether they make the trip, obviously, because you end up having both the referring and the attending specialists filling in the forms. In addition, our program is not reimbursing doctors, it is reimbursing the patient. This is why we want the patient to be in charge of the application forms.

Mr. Pope: But your hospital-to-hospital transfer system operates through OHIP. Why could you not use the OHIP offices to provide the plane tickets, the same way you handle hospital-to-hospital transfers?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Because we are going directly from a doctor's office; they are not necessarily in the hospitals at all.

Mr. Pope: But the process you use for hospital-to-hospital transfers is that the local physician calls OHIP and says, "I am going to admit this person; he is going to be transferred."

Hon. Mr. Elston: Let me get someone who knows how that hospital-to-hospital transfer operates to discuss this.

Dr. Psutka: Hospital-to-hospital transfers are covered under the Ambulance Act and basically they are not OHIP billed.

Mr. Pope: Listen, I have been dealing with this issue since November 1980. If you want, I can start reading stuff into the record. What happens is that the local doctor calls the OHIP office in Sudbury, gets clearance for the trip, the ticket is issued and then the patient is on his way. That is how it works in Timmins with all of the doctors; that is how it works in many northern Ontario centres. It is a phone call by the local referring doctor to OHIP for the hospital-to-hospital transfer and it has always been that way.

It is a toll-free call to the OHIP office in Sudbury and it is a very convenient system, I have to admit that. OHIP makes the judgement on whether or not it is a valid or essential hospital service. If they qualify under the terms and criteria of that program, the ticket is advanced and away they go.

Hon. Mr. Elston: At the moment we are discussing the fact that the only transfers are currently between hospitals.

Dr. Psutka: Yes, or health care facilities.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Or health care facilities, as we were talking about. I do not understand how physicians in Timmins are referring people in their office to another facility, because that would not have been contemplated under what was in existence prior to even 1980, I presume. I do not know how they were doing that, but perhaps—

Mr. Pope: This gets back to a six-year argument. However, just believe me that what happens is the physician clears the trip through OHIP.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Listen, I understand that there are some very creative physicians at work. I do not discount that at all.

Mr. Pope: I am not trying to argue about the hospital-to-hospital transfer system. The point is, would it not be more convenient for the patient, the doctor and the government to use the OHIP offices as the verification point, if you felt you needed one. I suspect you are going to come up with one in a year anyway. Would that not be

the appropriate and most convenient mechanism for everybody?

Dr. Psutka: Maybe I can clarify a few things. The system as it is in place now through the dedicated northern air ambulance system is for inpatients moving throughout the health care system, whether that is from hospital to hospital or hospital to home care or whatever. An ambulatory patient who is in a hospital and is being moved to a nursing home or something does not necessarily have to have a dedicated ambulance. They can go by chartered or scheduled airline. We move a fair number of people this way. We issue tickets right from our office. We even have a connection with Air Canada now.

However, the point is these are inpatients and these are patients who are in an institution. The tickets are usually obtained through the institution, and patients pick them up at the airport ticket counter after we have cleared them. I am concerned that you are saying the patients in doctors' offices who have not been admitted to anything are getting free tickets. That is not the way it is supposed to be.

Mr. Pope: No, I did not say that. I am asking you why we cannot use that same system for this program? It is much more convenient. You are paying for the ticket at the front end. You have the same problems with respect to credibility and someone cheating the system as you do under the other program for institution-to-institution transfers.

I am asking that you consider that as a more efficient way of doing it, rather than having the patient do all the paperwork and then have to apply for a rebate and that kind of process. I would ask that you consider that option as opposed to what is going to become a very time-consuming process for your own staff and for the patient, more importantly, with some delay in rebating the travel cost.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will take that into consideration.

Mr. Hennessy: We are looking at a lot of people, and that is probably the reason why this program was instituted; for people who could not afford to come down to Toronto or go to Manitoba. There are not many people who can say, "I need a plane, let us just write out a cheque and get the tickets."

Let us use the example of a mother and child—or either one—who have to come to Toronto in a hurry, and the husband just does not make the kind of money to go out and buy a plane ticket for \$600, \$700 or \$800 or whatever it is

going to be. They may have a difficult time trying to get that money. This program is made to help people who are financially troubled to some extent.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Pope's suggestion is that a recommendation from their doctor should be sufficient for them to go to OHIP and be given a plane ticket to come down to Toronto, rather than having them fill out all these papers and maybe not having the money to come.

They may have to go to relatives who may not be in the position to take them or they may not have the money. Therefore, people who are in a hurry for medical care either cannot come down or are put to great inconvenience.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is always a concern about emergency situations but we have opted for reimbursement. We analysed a lot of situations where travel was needed and one thing that occurred was that some facilities, the Hospital for Sick Children for instance, had provided programs before.

We had looked at having hospitals provide the grants which would not have been unlike the program contemplated before.

We decided that a direct grant from the ministry to the people was going to be the most effective way to provide the people with that money quickly. The unusual situation or the emergency situation is of some concern, and we are looking at some statistics which will be generated as this program is ongoing. We are looking forward to making changes if we find that people have been disadvantaged by it.

My intention is that there be a flexible approach to the program in its implementation. That is why we had consultations with several people in the facilities up north to bring out these sorts of problems and to get them to understand that we have a very flexible approach to providing assistance for people.

We are not providing 100 per cent reimbursement in all cases. It will be virtually 100 per cent in most of the cases. We are sliding the scale from \$125 to \$350 with respect to coverage, not only for air fare but for ground transportation as well.

I will be watching the emergency situation. It is a point you have made indirectly to me before and your point about retroactivity was made before as well. We are looking at those emergency situations to see how we may be able to improve the program to better deal with them.

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Pope's suggestion would cover Mr. Hennessy's suggestion that, in the

cases of people who do not have the money, the doctor could phone OHIP to cover that. They would not have to find the money out of their own pockets up front.

If you are not prepared to consider the suggestion from my colleague, this government surely has the heart to look after it if a doctor sees fit to phone OHIP and says: "There is a hardship case here. Mr. and Mrs. so-and-so cannot put the money up front." Rather than that, as in Mr. Hennessy's example, that maybe they do not come.

Surely you have heart enough to cover people like that; but I imagine you would have a lot of people taking advantage, so why not look at Mr. Pope's suggestion? You are going to pay for it anyway.

Hon. Mr. Elston: One other point brought to my attention was true emergencies; in most cases, those people probably are going to be referred through facilities anyway. It has been brought to my attention by the deputy and others that those will be covered along the way.

Mr. Wiseman: But what about hardship cases? Are you prepared to pay for them through OHIP or will one of the health facilities in the north be willing to pick up the tab?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There may be possibilities through the Ministry of Community and Social Services and other places.

Mr. Wiseman: A possibility? Are you, as a minister, prepared to do that for the people who have hardship, those who will not be able to come? There must be some people like that.

I have seen the day when I could not afford the flight. We as legislators have a responsibility to see that those poor people, in whatever part of the province, to ensure that they can come here without being handicapped because they do not have credit cards or the fee for the ticket. Surely this government has heart enough for that.

We have some members on the other side who are good church-goers and who would agree with that.

Mr. Hennessy: I have a supplementary. With all due respect to the people you have mentioned—and I say this for all members who are sitting here today because I think all members are aware that this has happened numerous times—someone goes to a government agency and the person working for the government says, "See your member of Parliament."

Anybody in my riding who cannot get a trip will as sure as hell be phoning me, even if the person is outside of my riding. Therefore, why

do we not have the information to pass on to these people? If the people in the OHIP office do not have it, they come to me. I get quite a few letters and I send you quite a few.

If the members do not know what kind of a program it is going to be, how would anyone else know? A person may not be working but his wife may be working and he may have to make a trip down here. People are very quick to say politicians pass the buck, but they are pretty good at doing it themselves. They say: "Why do you not get hold of Mickey Hennessy or Alan Pope? He can probably help you."

Therefore, the ball is in your back yard. Politically you have to do something, and the Liberal and NDP members are in the same position because we all like to assist people in our ridings, that is the name of the game, but it becomes very difficult for us if we leave here without any information, without any set program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The referral has to be made by the attending physician. The physicians have the program information as well.

Mr. Hennessy: But then they do not get a ticket.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right, they do not get a ticket.

Mr. Hennessy: They have to pay for the ticket.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right. In examining the question of situations of hardship, we understand that in a number of cases, expenses have been picked up either through the Ministry of Community and Social Services or some community effort or whatever, in extreme situations.

Mr. Hennessy: I know, but people do not like to go out and tell all their business to a stranger. There are a lot of proud people who do not like to go out and tell what their conditions are at home. Some people are brought up differently and feel embarrassed if they have to tell someone they do not know about what goes on in their homes. Or they are ashamed to say they do not have \$600 for the fare. So I am saying there are different ways of looking at it.

You are asking people to prostitute themselves to some extent by asking them to go out and get the air fare to Toronto. I think that is a little wrong. A lot of people will not make the trip or will go by bus if they do not have that much money.

I am not criticizing you announcing the program. I am just saying that if a smart

politicians listens to people sometimes he can pick up things.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have indicated that Mr. Pope's suggestions would be taken into consideration. In addition, we have indicated that the physicians and the hospital people will be involved in a continuing review of how this program is operating. In regard to addressing the hardship cases and so on, we will keep an open mind as to how that develops.

Mr. Hennessy: But the main argument is: Is the ticket going to be paid?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Right now it is by reimbursement.

Mr. Hennessy: You are very considerate in a lot of decisions you have made and I do not find you as hard-nosed as some people may. You may realize the situation the members from the north are explaining and also that my colleagues here wind up in the same position, not only in this but in other cases where the buck is in your back yard. They throw it to you, and you have to try to solve the problem.

Mr. Swart: It seems reasonable that there should be some program established whereby people do not have to pay the cash at the time that they need the transportation. I think we all realize that frequently there will be urgency in that flight—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Urgency, though, as I said earlier, gets into the situation of an emergency fare transfer or between-facilities transfers. An urgency situation, I think, is addressed in that way.

Mr. Swart: It can and it cannot. I would suggest there would be numbers of circumstances where the doctor would examine someone and suspect that they have a pretty serious ailment and should immediately be flown to Toronto for an operation or to see a specialist.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Or either Sudbury or Thunder Bay.

Mr. Swart: Let me finish. A lot of people in many places would not have the money available. Those costs are pretty high. Frequently too, somebody else will want to go with them for obvious reasons and it will mean a double fare.

If there are some technical reasons that it cannot be handled through the Ontario health insurance plan, would it not be possible to have some sort of voucher system in the doctors' offices to authorize the trips? The airlines could then bill the ministry once they were authorized.

They would never have to worry about getting a ticket in the case of an emergency or if something had to be done very quickly.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is an alternative. As the program goes on we can consider that for the hardship cases, as I said to Mr. Hennessy, if it is proved that they are not being dealt with fairly. One thing we will be able to do, when physicians request a referral, is read how many cases have had difficulty and follow those very quickly.

Mr. Swart: We now have the transportation which was not there before, under the former government, for most of these cases. I admit that I do not know a great deal about the health field and I am not the critic but, quite frankly, the criticism that was levied here today about the minister not proceeding with the plan on July 1, when he had barely been sworn in at that time, by people who were a part of the government that refused to provide the transportation for years and years, sounded a bit hypocritical to me.

Having said that, Mr. Minister, you want a plan that will work, cause the least friction and provide full accessibility so there will be no two-day or three-day delays because a ticket is not available or people do not have the money to buy the ticket. You should examine these other options before the system begins so those sorts of things do not happen; you should not wait for three, four or five months until the circumstances arise and say, "Now we have to change it." These can be projected ahead of time and the system should be as foolproof as possible at this time.

Mr. Pope: It is also hypocrisy to criticize the previous government when you do not know what has been done. I am talking about all the assistance the dedicated air ambulance system and the hospital-to-hospital transfer system gave to northerners.

Mr. Swart: Yes, but it was not there in the degree that it should have been.

Mr. Pope: It is too bad you do not know much about it.

Mr. Swart: I know that much about it. You do not have to know much about it to know that.

Mr. Pope: I have a question about the grant levels. Why do the grants range from \$125 to \$350 and are not for the full return air fare?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will go through how we worked out that schedule. We have provided a system of grants based on the range of distances. It is based on an economy air fare from the site to wherever the referral takes place. A \$75 amount is taken from that, which is equivalent to the normal costs associated with driving 300 kilom-

etres. That is the basis on which the amounts were calculated.

Mr. Pope: I want to establish this because you made a big production half an hour ago. Our program paid for the full return fare, while your program does not; it penalizes northerners to the tune of \$75. When we are talking about some of these things, let us spend a little bit of time to see whose program was really better. Full return air fare was provided.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Once.

Mr. Pope: And a sliding scale thereafter. You are prepared to admit that for the initial visit, the Progressive Conservative government's program was better than your program with respect to the money being paid?

Hon. Mr. Elston: If your program was for full air fare and full payment.

Mr. Wiseman: You know it was.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But it was never in operation.

Mr. Pope: You are the minister. You have access to that program, you should know what the criteria were. You are the one who reviewed the program and decided that you would create a better one. Now you are saying that you did not know what the program was that you were reviewing.

That is all very well; in the meantime, though, northerners are paying a \$75 penalty under your program for the initial visit.

Mr. Wiseman: Plus the loss of six months.

Mr. Pope: Plus the loss of six months. Can I get into another issue? It is about the phrase, "will be based on the distance travelled to the closest appropriate medical specialist as determined by the referring physician." Let me give you one example with names that Dr. Dyer will know. Dr. John Sullivan in Timmins, a neighbour of mine and a very good friend, wants to refer a patient for orthopaedic surgery. He will not qualify under the program even though he refers the patient to Toronto. Is that correct? Dr. Mitra is the orthopaedic surgeon in Sudbury and Dr. Dakin is an orthopaedic surgeon in Kirkland Lake.

Hon. Mr. Elston: My understanding is that he would qualify unless there are appropriate local people. I cannot judge Dr. Sullivan's referral.

Mr. Pope: The most competent physician in Timmins.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have met him.

Mr. Pope: Yes, the most competent, a great guy.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes.

Mr. Pope: If he says that for a simple back operation he prefers to deal with his classmate who is performing orthopaedic surgery in Toronto, will that be covered under this program even though there are qualified orthopaedic surgeons to do that kind of surgery in Sudbury and one in Kirkland Lake?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It will be covered because he has determined the qualified person.

Mr. Pope: No, it was not based on qualification, it was based on his referral habits. Any one of the three of them could do the operation. If Dr. Sullivan decides to refer him to Toronto, will that trip be covered?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes.

Mr. Pope: Right. Now what are we going to tell the orthopaedic surgeons in Kirkland Lake and Sudbury?

Hon. Mr. Elston: What will probably take place in the short term will be exactly what has occurred up to this point. The referral patterns will continue but, with respect to dressing up the program and services available for specialists in the north, referral patterns will change over the long term. We cannot change everything right away.

Mr. Pope: No, I know that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You know that and I know that. What we are working on, with some degree of earnestness, is orthopaedic surgeons in North Bay or wherever reaching out and providing their services to the smaller communities through outreach programs, or taking the time to introduce the fact that they can handle orthopaedic surgery and affecting the referral of patients to them in that manner.

A good reason why Dr. Sullivan may refer somebody to Toronto may be because he is most familiar and comfortable with that work and finds it most appropriate.

One of the things that has not occurred to this point is the allowance for specialists being reimbursed for their professional time when they travel into other communities to sell the quality of their services—if you want to look at it that way—in those northern municipalities.

In Sault Ste. Marie we were told by a number of people that the referral patterns could be strengthened if we provided those sorts of incentives. We expect that in the short term, not overnight, the referral patterns will be changed over the course of the operation of this program.

3 p.m.

Mr. Pope: You are going to lose your orthopaedic surgeon in Sudbury under that program because it will be cheaper for the patient to be referred to Toronto for orthopaedic surgery, based on the referral patterns of the past and based on cost. It will be cheaper than going to Sudbury, because Sudbury does not qualify for the travel subsidy since it is within 300 kilometres.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have taken the information from people; I think it is 290 kilometres or something. We have indicated there would be reimbursement from Timmins to Sudbury.

Mr. Pope: It is not in any document yet.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is something more than 290 kilometres, 296 or 298. I was not prepared to refuse to cover that because it is so close, and we are considering a trip between Timmins and Sudbury as covered.

Mr. Pope: Okay. Let us take the case of the orthopaedic surgeon in Kirkland Lake then. You would know, and I would think Dr. Dyer would know, that at least 80 per cent of Dr. Dakin's work is referral work.

Hon. Mr. Elston: He is a doctor in Kirkland Lake?

Mr. Pope: Yes, an orthopaedic surgeon. Have you talked to Dr. Dakin about the consequences of this program on his practice?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not spoken to the doctor myself.

Mr. Pope: What I am concerned about is linking transportation programs with the establishment of specialties in the north. That was always my hangup with the program, and it surfaced in a couple of election campaigns and at other times in the Legislature and in my dealings with Dr. Dyer.

Yes, we have to cover that transportation cost for northerners, but I am very concerned that it be linked with some qualified specialists coming to the north and providing services in the north. Otherwise there is not going to be anyone practising there.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think there is any disagreement between you and me on that point.

Mr. Gordon: I am sorry, Mr. Pope; are you finished?

Mr. Pope: I was going to get into the specialists in the north. If you have something else, go ahead.

Mr. Gordon: First of all, I want to compliment the minister on his very fine staff in the Ministry of Health. I had the opportunity of

spending some time there as the parliamentary assistant, and I am sure the minister is going to be well briefed and well informed while he is there.

Recently I wrote you a letter about the lack of psychiatrists in the Sudbury region. I indicated to you at that time that, depending on whom you talk to, there are either four or five psychiatrists in that area. Of the four psychiatrists supposedly practising in Sudbury, one has moved to North Bay and one to Saskatoon, and another has had a severe heart attack and is conducting only half a practice. Thus, in effect, there are fewer than the number suggested.

In reply to my letter—and I thank you for returning the letter promptly—you indicated that Dr. W. J. Copeman, who is in charge of the underserviced area program, had recruited four psychiatrists who are now working in Sudbury, and I have indicated the problem with those psychiatrists.

You went on to say that an additional seven are expected to establish practice in Sudbury in the next few months. My understanding is that these seven—and perhaps even eight, depending on how successful Dr. Copeman is—would be working under the auspices of the Sudbury Algoma Hospital in Sudbury.

Is the money going to be there from your ministry for these psychiatrists? Are these real psychiatrists, are they coming and is the money going to be there to fund them? I ask those questions because we have been attempting to get psychiatrists into the north for a long time.

The second point is that, as you are aware, there is a problem with the fact that specialists coming into the country from other countries to practise as of January 1986 will have to have accreditation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, and they are going to be required to pass an examination.

The fear of people at the Sudbury Algoma Hospital, and my fear too, is that these psychiatrists will not get in under the wire; in other words, all the documentation and so forth will not be completed by the end of December. Can you assure me that using your offices you will see, along with your good deputy, that the documentation is put in place and that we will not have to worry about whether we are going to get those psychiatrists?

There are two basic questions; the first is about documentation and the second is whether the money is there.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The people are real, but I do not know the status of their applications. The last time I spoke to Dr. Copeman, there was

a feeling they would be coming. I presume the documentation is in order, but I can check and report more fully if there is a problem with the documentation.

One of the concerns we always have is knowing what facilities each psychiatrist may want when he gets to the area. I presume they have taken a look at the facilities since they have been recruited to be there; they know what they are coming to. Presumably, the facilities they need to work with are there.

As to the documentation, which is a more pressing matter, I can look into that and get back to you.

Mr. Gordon: Will you push for it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: If there is some difficulty there, I will do what I can to assist Dr. Copeman.

Mr. Gordon: Yes, but how about the money? Is the money there for those doctors?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As far as I know.

Dr. Dyer: The money would be provided depending on what the negotiated settlement is. Part of the negotiations involves trying to get a commitment from them to stay there for something in the order of three years or more.

Mr. Gordon: In other words, the ministry is prepared to provide the money, but naturally there will be some terms attached to it.

Dr. Dyer: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is part of the negotiation that usually surround these agreements.

Mr. Pope: Dealing now with page 5 of your statement, the medical specialist program. You have no doubt been briefed by your staff. This is the same program that was approved in May by the previous government?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is much the same.

Mr. Pope: At that time it was called the new medical north incentive program for specialists. There were to be 50 additional specialists, with a grant of \$40,000 to each specialist towards the costs of establishing a practice. Travel bonuses were to be paid to those participating in the program, and it included financial support to equip facilities needed in different communities for the visiting specialists, both the initial capital costs and the ongoing operating costs.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Travel bonuses were to be paid, but what we have is compensation for professional time that is lost during that travel; that was not quite the same. Travel allowances were also going to be paid to specialists who were already located in northern Ontario, unlike those

who are going in for the first time. Also, medical specialist educational trip allowances are to be included in our program.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Pope: What is your budget allocation for travel and clinic facilities?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Our total over the next four years is \$6.7 million. I do not have the breakdown.

Mr. Pope: Is that the entire program?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes; \$6.7 million.

Mr. Pope: That compares to \$6.1 million in the program approved in May.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yours was about \$6 million; that is right.

Mr. Pope: So it is essentially the same program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is a different emphasis, though, in terms of including the specialists who are already there.

Mr. Pope: It is not quite the same, but I will come to that in a minute. I am saying that because I want to go back to my original position. In your statement in the Legislature, you indicated promises had been made and not fulfilled. I want to reiterate that in May, \$6.1 million was allocated to encourage 50 specialists to go to northern Ontario and establish practice there.

By the way, are you going to establish the co-ordinating committee of medical representatives for that program?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, if we have committees; general practitioners, specialists and hospital administrators will be involved. As well, the start of our program on the specialists will be retroactive to the June date.

Mr. Pope: Good. Do that for the travel allowance too.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think you had approval for the \$1.5 million, which was put in the budget of the Ministry of Northern Affairs and Mines, as I understand it.

Mr. Pope: On the travel allowance?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. You had approved \$600,000 for the Ministry of Health for the first year of the specialist program.

Mr. Pope: Yes, and the four-year projection was \$6.1 million.

Have you decided that general practitioners will not qualify for the underserved area program as it now exists?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That was the question you raised earlier about Dr. Strobele. Is that the fellow?

Mr. Pope: He is the one.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is the name in the letter I just received. I do not know the circumstances surrounding that, and I have not made a policy decision.

Mr. Pope: Okay. Let us leave that for now. You have not made a policy decision about general practitioners?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, I have not; that was the nature of your question regarding Dr. Strobele. I got the letter recently; so I will look into it.

Mr. Pope: That is fine.

A part of the program that was examined and approved in May included encouraging a relationship between the local hospitals in northern Ontario and the teaching hospital centres in the rest of the province. That involved signing contracts or entering into contractual arrangements between the hospitals. It also included some support from the Ministry of Health for the travel time and for the loss of time for visiting specialists from the teaching hospital centres to go to the local associated hospitals. Is that program continuing?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Those are contracts that you had already filled?

Mr. Pope: No. That was the program approved in May.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are you indicating that the contractual arrangements you had are all done?

Mr. Pope: No. I am talking about the program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: These were things you had conceptualized.

Mr. Pope: No. It was an approved program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are you saying the contracts were all done?

Mr. Pope: No. I am saying there was an approved program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Let me just understand what you are saying. You are saying that you had a conceptualized—

Mr. Pope: No.

Hon. Mr. Elston: An approved policy?

Mr. Pope: An approved policy that allows for an association—

Hon. Mr. Elston: With no mechanisms.

Mr. Pope: Is the program ongoing?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not seen any contracts coming between the hospitals and the teaching hospitals.

Mr. Pope: Is the program in existence?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Not that I know of. I have not seen any contracts between any of these places.

Mr. Pope: Are you aware that the program exists?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I had heard of some suggestions, for instance, through outreach programs of Dr. Gilbert Heseltine's operations.

Mr. Pope: That is only one example.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is one example; that is correct.

Mr. Pope: For the benefit of your staff, I refer them to page 5 of the documentation of April and May; they will find reference to it there. Do not ditch the program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: April and May? Your documents?

Mr. Pope: No. The ministry documents.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Can you tell me which pages of which documents you are referring to?

Mr. Pope: Have your staff review the documents of April and May and they will find a reference to formal linkages of small community hospitals with the regional and teaching centres to encourage specialists to practise in the north as a part of the northern specialist program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will have the staff review it.

Mr. Pope: Okay. I will leave it at that. However, I take it from your answer that nothing has been done to deal with that aspect of the northern specialist program.

Dr. Dyer: We cannot answer that. We know there are arrangements between Toronto Western Hospital, for example, and Sioux Lookout General Hospital. There are various arrangements—I am not sure if that is what you were referring to—mainly for psychiatric services. However, we will look into this to see whether it is in place.

Mr. Pope: That is what I am exploring. I am aware that it exists in different places, and it was made a part of the program. I am anxious to hear from you that some emphasis is being put on that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will check, and we will provide you with a list of the arrangements that are there. With reference to Sioux Lookout General Hospital, these are Dr. Harry Bain's arrangements. Can you give us some examples of what you would like us to look into?

Mr. Pope: I am anxious to hear about the Sioux Lookout General Hospital kind of example

and where you are headed with it because it is an essential part—

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is a bit easier, though, if you can be a little more specific with the examples you want us to look into. If those are the types of arrangements you are interested in, we can provide you with that information.

Mr. Pope: The point I am trying to make is that one of the components of our northern specialist program was the development of those relationships, which would allow for specialists. It was not limited in the program documents to psychiatry. As a northerner, I can tell you it was a key component of the specialty program.

What I am anxious to leave with you to pursue is some assurance that this element of the program is going to be developed, because I think it covers some of the gaps you found in the bare bones of the specialist program with the 50 positions we had developed in May. This other element was a very important element when the program was being looked at.

Also, because it is so important in our community, given a number of incidents in the spring of 1985 along the coasts of James Bay and Hudson's Bay and given the need for community-based psychiatric programs in Cochrane, I have to ask what happened to the working relationship with Dr. Frank Covington and why that deteriorated.

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not totally familiar with the Covington situation, but are the happenings along the coast of James Bay tied in specifically to psychiatric services needs?

Mr. Pope: Yes. This was a very important issue. Tied up in Dr. Covington's tenure in Timmins was a relationship for the provision of psychiatric services with the University of Western Ontario and Dr. Gilbert Heseltine, and the development of community outreach programs in northeastern Ontario. Everyone from all political stripes recognizes the need in the districts of Timiskaming and Cochrane. From my knowledge, we now have, and I may be three months out of date—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Your briefing book is neat.

Mr. Pope: It has nothing to do with that. I am referring to my other activities over the past three months.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Oh, yes.

Mr. Pope: I may be three months out of date, but I believe there now is no one except for a psychiatrist in private practice in Timmins, who withdrew from his working relationship. There

are a lot of interpersonal problems in that whole issue, so I do not want to get into them too deeply. There now is no community outreach program there and no potential for one from what I can see.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Corder, do you want to respond to the Covington situation? By the way, you are correct that there is only a private psychiatrist in Timmins.

Mr. Pope: He used to be associated, but he got fed up; it is a long story.

Hon. Mr. Elston: However, he is still practising as a private psychiatrist. For the purposes of this, perhaps that is enough.

Mr. Corder: On the issue of Dr. Covington, I understand he resigned. I would need to investigate further some of the allegations about his cheques not being received and that type of thing. I was not aware of that. I believe Dr. Copeman has recruited additional psychiatrists for Timmins. My understanding is that seven will be coming within the next few months, but I would have to check that with Dr. Copeman as well.

It is my understanding that during Dr. Covington's tenure in Timmins he received payment as a staff psychiatrist from Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital for the entire time he was in Timmins. I will have to investigate the fact that he did not receive remuneration.

Mr. Pope: Dr. Covington was in charge of the north shore community-based psychiatric program. He went to Kenora, Red Lake and Geraldton.

Mr. Corder: He provided services to Kenora and Red Lake on a sessional arrangement. That was part of his commitment when he went to Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital.

Mr. Pope: Then there was a transfer from Lakehead to Timmins, which I gather was never recognized by the ministry.

Mr. Corder: As you are aware, we were trying to negotiate the extended campus program and to involve the new hospital in Timmins. The proposal for the extended campus program was never finalized with the hospital in Timmins, so he remained on the books of Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. I am not familiar with what his arrangement for money was with the University of Western Ontario.

Mr. Pope: We were making strides in improving the quality of psychiatric care in northeastern Ontario. Everyone agreed it was needed. We were developing a relationship with the University of Western Ontario that would provide some specialist support for the

community-based programs and the Timmins District Hospital.

For some reason I do not understand, those relationships were never finalized. Because they were never finalized and because of the uncertainty, Dr. Covington left the country with no replacement. We still do not have any established, formal relationship with the University of Western Ontario, of which I am aware, for psychiatric services in northeastern Ontario. I may be out of date about that, but I would like to know why the whole situation was allowed to deteriorate. I am not saying it has anything to do with the minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I believe the actual place I met Dr. Covington was in Kenora. He happened to be on a trip there, and it was then that he informed me he had decided to move to New Orleans.

Mr. Pope: Somewhere in Louisiana.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am sure it was in the New Orleans area. We did not go into detail as to why he had left. It would have been a good opportunity for him to have provided me with details. Although I found him to be a gentleman in his manner of speaking, perhaps he did not feel he wanted to do it.

He felt his opportunities were going to be much more highly reimbursed in Louisiana. If I am not mistaken, about that time he had suffered the loss of his father or the death of an uncle, which he indicated was motivating him to a certain extent. However, he did tell me that he was quite taken with the work he had started in northern Ontario and hoped to return on brief occasions to do some follow-ups.

With respect to the cheques, the matter was not brought to my attention, but we are still working on providing outreach work for psychiatric services and we are still attempting to follow up on Dr. Heseltine's suggestions.

As you are aware, Dr. Heseltine is now in Oman. He has been attracted, as a number of people from Canada have been, to the Middle East to build and put in place a medical school. He will also be coming back in the summertime on occasion to keep an eye on what is happening. He has also left to take on a challenge that is much different and was too attractive to refuse.

Mr. Corder, do you have more specifics on the outreach program?

Mr. Corder: The arrangement with the University of Western Ontario has not been abandoned, and the psychiatrists recruited by Dr. Copeman will enjoy an academic arrangement with that university. I believe we are meeting

tomorrow with the people from Western to finalize the negotiations. The academic arrangement with UWO continues even though Dr. Covington has left. Once the extended campus program for northeastern Ontario is under way, university involvement will probably expand to include universities other than UWO.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is significant in terms of providing linguistic services other than English to those who need them.

Mr. Pope: I know there is rivalry over who will get this. What is the reason for the delay in the expanded campus program? I gather you have not finalized it yet.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not. I am not even sure when I met Dr. Covington; I think it was in September when I was in Kenora or perhaps just prior to that. That was the first indication I had that he was not continuing. Seven psychiatrists recruited for Timmins have not yet arrived, but all are scheduled to be in place by January 1 and we expect there will be considerably more services available for Timmins.

I can appreciate your concern as a local member. I am not certain of the incidents you mention, but I can assure you that these people are to be arriving quite soon, unless something has changed since the time I was last informed.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Pope: I hope it is made more of a priority than it has been in the past six months. We need it desperately in the northeast. There are many examples that I could leave, but I do not think they would be helpful.

Hon. Mr. Elston: While you are getting your bearings, perhaps I might say that we also have under way the Touche Ross analysis of northeastern mental health requirements. I have met with them and they have met with others as well. It is ongoing. They will be looking not only at the Timmins area but also at northeastern Ontario with respect to what is required. Some groundwork is being laid that may be of assistance in addressing some of the examples you know about.

Mr. Pope: I have a few additional issues to do with northern health services. According to my information, the 24-hour air ambulance service was approved for funding in May. Did it go into effect?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I had to get the funding for it. I understand approval in principle existed before. I do not think there is any question that the people of northern Ontario are looking for

this program. I acknowledge there is a desire to see it get going.

When I was at the hangar in Timmins, I indicated this was not solely our initiative, but that it had been desired by all parties in northern Ontario. If there is one item that comes to my attention, it is that partisan politics does not have a great deal to do with the issues that have a high priority in northern Ontario, if I can put it that way. A number of members have a clear idea of the provision of service they would like to see in northern Ontario.

Mr. Pope: My information is that \$1.8 million was the 1985-86 cost and that it had been approved. I would like you to verify that to satisfy yourself.

Dr. Dyer: Our information is that the amount was approved in principle, pending an implementation plan with which we had to go back to the board. Although the money was identified and approved in principle, it was not made available until we went back with the full implementation plan.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The former Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet is mumbling about past recollections of how Management Board operated.

Mr. Pope: No; it is how the minutes are drafted.

Dr. Dyer: Part of that plan involved the training of the paramedics.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am sensing a slight recollection of frustration on the part of the former Minister of Health with respect to how minutes are drawn and with respect to the technical, operational proceedings.

Mr. Pope: The only sense of frustration you might get from the performance this afternoon is that a lot of the initiatives you took credit for on November 25 were approved and funded in the spring.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No; not totally.

Mr. Pope: It is the same with the perinatal units and the helipad. I know the helipad was approved just before the fall of the government and that it is your legitimate right to review those expenditures. The fact is that what you announced as your new government's initiatives in northern Ontario were the basics of the programs, I admit with some variations, that the previous government had been working on. It is fair ball in that it should have been done sooner. That is fair comment.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, I and my colleague the parliamentary assistant included

opposition members with our announcements in Thunder Bay and Sudbury. The member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) and the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) were present in Thunder Bay, and then there was the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). There was no indication on my part that they were solely the product of deliberations by us as a party; it was, in fact, an amalgamation of ideas put forward by a number of people, including the 15 northern members, or so-called northern members.

In addition, one would have to say that this was also, in effect, because of the deliberations of former northern members, because there has been some change during the last couple of elections. But we recognize the contribution of northern members. There is no question about that.

Mr. Pope: I have one last comment, and I will quote from both of your statements: "This is an issue in which a number of promises were made by the previous government over the past several years. It is one on which the Peterson government will now act."

You may have been very accommodating and diplomatic in your off-the-record comments, but your on-the-record comments indicate that this new government was the one that developed these programs and got the funding for them, and that is not true. We can disagree on some of the detail of the program, but I cannot accept the implication left by the written word that somehow we had done nothing with respect to these programs during the time we were in government. I do not accept that and I do not think northerners accept it. That was my problem with your statement in the Legislature, quite frankly, and that is why I have spent the last hour and a half going over the detail of it. It simply does not jibe with the facts as I know them.

I am very happy that you have done it. I think you deserve a lot of credit for it. I would be the first one to say that. But I think you also have to say more than your announcements do. Make certain in off-the-record comments that people know that other northerners are involved. You have statements now that are part of the record in your own written words that indicate something that I do not think is accurate or fair. That is simply the point I was wished to make.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have taken great pains to accommodate the activities of opposition members in my announcements. It has not always been the practice, I agree. But I have taken great pains whenever there was a community project to

ensure that opposition members were available. This is what happened with the announcement that was made to assist St. Joseph's Heritage in Thunder Bay. Both Mr. Hennessy and Mr. Foulds were invited to participate. Unfortunately, Mr. Hennessy was not available, but he was represented.

I have taken great pains to acknowledge that, as far as health care goes, partisan politics ought not to be highly visible. That is why I commented, on record in the House, on the involvement of the 15 northern members as well. Your point is well made about the degree of concern expressed by Mr. Foulds, yourself and others as northern members. I am not belittling that contribution to the issue. That is on the record here as well.

Mr. Pope: I promised to deal with two issues at 3:30 p.m. for Mr. Reid with respect to the core program. May I do that so these people can leave?

I wanted to know from Mr. Reid the status of the capital fund. I am talking about the \$140 million, or whatever it is now. What projects will be accommodated in the \$140 million?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Is that the lottery?

Mr. Pope: No, it is not the lottery at all. It is the fund. I am talking about the \$140 million, or whatever it is now. What projects will be accommodated in the \$140 million?

Mr. Reid: It is now \$151 million.

Mr. Pope: Has there been any change in the ranking of the projects?

Mr. Reid: There has been no alteration in the capital plan.

Mr. Pope: Which ones are starting this year? I know you have some in progress. Is St. Joseph's Health Centre in Toronto going ahead?

Mr. Reid: It has already been tendered, and the tender documents are under review by the hospital at this point.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Pope: I think three or four projects are starting under the \$140 million. Is that correct?

Mr. Reid: The total capital plan involves about 300 projects. I am going to make an assumption that I know which projects you are talking about. The Timmins hospital is currently in functional program, as is the North Bay hospital, which are the two big projects in the north.

Mr. Pope: What I am getting at is that I think there are four projects—and I am not talking about Timmins and North Bay—that are going ahead.

Mr. Reid: Does that mean we can stop Timmins and North Bay?

Mr. Pope: No. I am talking about the four that were started this year with the \$151 million. Which four are starting? Maybe I can help you. Just let me see if I can.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Get your briefing book out there.

Mr. Reid: Exclusive of the lottery-funded project?

Mr. Pope: Yes.

Mr. Reid: Perhaps St. Joseph's in Toronto may go under construction this year, but North Bay, Timmins, Doctors Hospital and the Markham-Stouffville Hospital are the four biggest projects apart from the teaching hospitals. Hamilton's Civic Hospitals redevelopment, for example, has gone to tender. The tender has been awarded. The contractor has moved onsite. Hamilton's St. Joseph's Hospital is now pre-qualifying contractors for tender call momentarily.

Mr. Pope: Okay. That is the list I was getting at.

Mr. Reid: The Kingston General Hospital is in the final stages of planning. It has not called tenders at this point. The other one was Botterell Hall in Kingston, which is a relatively small project at Queen's University. If memory serves me correctly, it is either under construction or at tender.

None of the projects that were incorporated in the 1985-86 capital plan to go under construction in that period have been altered.

Mr. Pope: Okay.

Mr. Villeneuve: The minister is aware of several problem areas we have in eastern Ontario. I will touch on them briefly and make him aware of them to ensure that they are looked at in the rather imminent future.

One of them concerns the Macdonell Memorial Hospital in Cornwall. This serves not only residents of Cornwall, but chronic-care patients throughout the riding of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Indeed, some come from Prescott-Russell and Grenville county.

This hospital has been underfunded for quite a long time. We have to make a pitch to the ministry each year to make sure its deficit is covered. I am told that the deficit this year will be between \$375,000 and \$380,000. A questionnaire was sent to management people at Macdonell Memorial in October. They are understaffed by approximately eight nurses and five nurses' aides.

This hospital is operated by the Religious Hospitalers of St. Joseph's. It is a chronic rehabilitation hospital with 100 chronic-care beds and 22 rehabilitation beds. There is a waiting list of some 50 patients, and I am told that from three to five new patients are admitted annually, so there is a very slow turnover.

But obviously the patients are receiving excellent care. They are living beyond the times that might normally be expected for people with the types of problems they have. Quite a number of my immediate relatives, including my mother, spent some time there, and the care given is excellent.

They still have an operating deficit this year and are negotiating with officials of your ministry in what they feel is a very precarious situation. I have spoken to Sister Kane on a number of occasions and she is very concerned about whether she will be able to keep the doors open. It leaves one wondering. The patients and relatives of these people who are being cared for in this very good institution are concerned, as are the people who administer it and the people who work there. It is rather depressing to be literally operating on a shoe-string.

Hon. Mr. Elston: May I interrupt, because a couple of things have happened. Initially when we were dealing with Macdonell, the indication was that perhaps a \$600,000 deficit would be the result. We have got into the situation where a deficit of about \$278,000 is now being projected.

Mr. Villeneuve: By trimming staff, which was already pretty tight.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. The hospital had budgeted under its initial projections for 13 full-time equivalents in its operation, so there is no question about tightness of staffing.

The other thing that happened, actually, as the result of a meeting in September, was that the ministry released \$196,000 from holdback to help the hospital meet needs as they came due. So we have been working pretty closely with that hospital. In fact, right now we are in the middle of our mid-year review.

We are aware of the difficulties that are being experienced, but we are addressing them and have taken steps to deal with part of the projected deficits. Being flexible helped them meet some of their difficulties, although I can anticipate that it does not always relieve people from pressure with respect to the funding operations.

Mr. Villeneuve: I am expressing these concerns also on behalf of the member for Cornwall (Mr. Guindon), who had to go back to the riding to attend a funeral today.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was wondering, having seen you in the great riding of Cornwall express your good wishes about the move of a certain facility to that fair town from your riding, whether you were planning to follow the facility. I did not know for sure what was happening.

Mr. Villeneuve: I know you are aware that the metropolis within the great riding I represent is slightly more than 3,000 people, so Cornwall is pretty important to us as a centre for health care and many other things.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can understand that.

Mr. Villeneuve: The other area of concern I have regarding treatment centres is a place called Mount Carmel House Treatment Centre. The good friend on my immediate right was able to provide some funding for it shortly before a certain event on May 2.

I have to give you a little background because this is a different kind of facility. It is serving a large area, an area that includes patients from Ottawa, from points as far west as Kingston and from certainly all of eastern Ontario. It was initiated in the early 1980s, when most of the patients at that time were business people and people who could afford to pay their own way for the six-week period of rehabilitation that occurs at that particular treatment centre.

Last year 117 patients were treated at Mount Carmel House. They have a rate of cure somewhere between 75 and 80 per cent, and that is something to be very proud of. It is not an institution and it is not a hospital. It is a treatment centre. It is a converted religious accommodation at St. Raphaels.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Was that over the long term? I wonder how you are picturing the 75 per cent figure.

Mr. Villeneuve: That is over a period from 1981 to the present, I believe.

3:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There have been no returns to the program as a result of treatment?

Mr. Villeneuve: There have been, as we say, people who have fallen off the wagon, which is to be expected in such situations. However, when you have a 75 per cent or higher cure rate, I believe such a program has to be considered very important, not only to those people who have been successfully treated but also to their families and communities.

We are finding now the average age of patients at Mount Carmel is in the early to middle twenties. They do not have the funds to provide the actual cost of operating the facility. They are

finding quite a number of patients are coming from the Indian reservation known as St. Regis on Cornwall Island. People are coming of their own free will looking for help, and they are getting help.

Even if our rate of cure went down to 50 per cent, we would still have some 50 to 60 young people in their early to middle twenties able to go out into the world and live a normal life and earn their living without being—I will not use some of the words we could use for some people with those types of problems—on relief or on social assistance, with a little bit of initial help.

We are speaking of somewhere in the area of \$100,000. I realize their request right now is above that, probably closer to \$150,000, but it includes some capital improvements.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually, I think they submitted a proposal for \$338,000.

Mr. Villeneuve: That is quite a recent one?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is the one that is being reviewed currently.

Mr. Villeneuve: How much of that is for capital expenditures?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not have the proposal. We will find out for you and report back.

Mr. Villeneuve: It seems to me \$100,000 to \$150,000 is what they require to operate. If these same young people, and chances are they would not leave their community—

Hon. Mr. Elston: If I could interrupt, the note I have before me says it is a proposal for a \$338,000, almost \$339,000, annual operating budget. All that figure we are looking at is for operating costs. What we will do is take a look at the proposal and then we can come back and be more definite, but this is—

Mr. Villeneuve: I was led to believe the figure was smaller.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It may only be \$150,000 for the balance of this year. We will give you the details.

Mr. Villeneuve: I do know that \$50,000 was injected some time in May or early June to bring them back up to a break-even situation. They are now back in a deficit situation to the point where, as we look into the crystal ball, the facility may have to close in the not too distant future. It does have 110 per cent community support, as well as financial support from people who have gone through the rehabilitation process, but there are just not enough dollars there to maintain it.

As I mentioned, some of these young people may not want to leave their home community to

go for treatment in the United States. Apparently, there are treatment centres in the U.S. where the Ontario health insurance plan might pay for Ontario residents to go.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That does, in fact, occur.

Mr. Villeneuve: Yes, I realize that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can verify that.

Mr. Villeneuve: Apparently, their rate of cure is no better than we have right here in eastern Ontario at Mount Carmel, so if there is anything your ministry can do—I do not believe they want to be a certified institution. They would simply like—

Hon. Mr. Elston: To be licensed?

Mr. Villeneuve: Licensed, or whatever.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you mean as a private hospital?

Mr. Villeneuve: I do not believe they are going for that type.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not possible under current legislation.

Mr. Villeneuve: I know there are some precedents here I would rather not talk about. One way or another, if we can keep that treatment centre open, we will be doing a great service to the area of eastern Ontario that needs it and that does not have anything similar within driving distance.

I will just touch on the nursing home situation. Are you aware that, for a rural county, the county of Dundas has the highest number of senior citizens per capita compared to almost anywhere? There is a shortage—

Hon. Mr. Elston: This is an appropriate time for me to interject what I found in my tour around the province. In every area I stopped off at, the population of senior citizens in that community is higher than the provincial average. We are having problems finding where Ontario's average is coming from. Being from an area not dissimilar to your own, I appreciate that we have a high concentration of senior citizens.

Mr. Villeneuve: You know of what I speak. There is a great need out there for additional nursing home beds, and we do have some excellent facilities. A new privately owned nursing home recently opened in the town of Long Sault is serving the area very well.

There are a number of small items I want to touch on. I suppose we can run the clock right out unless someone has something they want to put on the record today rather than some other time.

Hon. Mr. Elston: While I have a minute—I will let you come up for air for a second—I will

just tell Mr. Pope that we will have details on the funding of the core programs for next week.

Mr. Pope: Okay.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will take some notes, Mr. Villeneuve.

Mr. Chairman: I do not recall what they were, but a couple of things were asked for last week, for all members, which they probably have not got yet. Does anybody recall what those were?

Mr. Dean: One was a list of the meetings held by you with pharmacists.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is on the record.

Mr. Chairman: There was something else. Anyway, I will check it with you.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will go through the notes again.

Mr. Villeneuve: We do have an ageing population in Ontario. Just to get a plug in, quite obviously they were well cared for by the previous administration. However, leaving that aside, there is a group of people in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and the riding of Cornwall who have contacted me on a number of occasions. They are very interested in having some funding for assistive devices.

They are a rather loosely knit group based in Cornwall, and they have chosen to provide me with quite a bit of correspondence. I have passed it on to the Ministry of Health from time to time. They were quite pleased and relieved when a certain speech from the throne back in June covered their situation. As time went on, things changed and I understand now they are again on the outside looking in and requesting assistance for those people 18 years of age and older.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is 21 now. We have taken a second step further from the program developed for 1982. We have not applied right across for every category yet; the whole program has not been implemented. If you would like to set up a time, I could meet with a representative or two from that group, I will be meeting with those groups on an individual basis in January.

Mr. Villeneuve: I am sure Mr. Stidwill would gladly meet with you and express his concerns and those of a large number of people in that fairly large area within the city of Cornwall and outlying areas.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no question that assistive devices are of interest across the province. We are looking at taking several steps towards a program. I do not know whether we will have to wait to hear, but we may be sitting in

January anyway from what I heard from both the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) as they spoke in the House. Depending on what our schedule is, we can arrange something mutually convenient.

Mr. Villeneuve: I am quite sure our party is prepared to sit through January, February and March, if need be.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I understand it from talking to at least one member of the group that has just gone through another campaign, they are quite prepared to sit year round.

Mr. Chairman: We are slightly out of our territory here. Do you have any other points to make?

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Chairman, I am at your disposal. I see it is four o'clock.

Mr. Chairman: It was suggested at the beginning of the meeting today that we start off next week at 10 a.m. and have a presentation on paramedics. How long is that presentation?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is about 40 minutes long, so I expect I should be here around 10:45 a.m. for any questions and answers on paramedics.

Mr. Chairman: Or whatever.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Or whatever, but there may be some questions. This is something I was to give out today. It is the dispensing fees across Canada for pharmacists, part of the information I delivered last week. I can leave these with the clerk.

Mr. Chairman: If I might ask a question with the committee's permission, you provided a fairly extensive list of drugs for us last week,

using the Saskatchewan example as a comparison in prices. I am told by some druggists there is a list of comparable length which shows they are now losing money at the prices they are getting.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But there is not a list of comparable length. I received examples on a couple of occasions from the Ontario Pharmacists' Association and a couple of individuals about drugs they were losing money on, but there were certainly not 53 drugs. There were 10 or 11 in particular, but each pharmacist could give you an example of a very low-volume, high-priced drug that may be a problem for his pharmacy.

Mr. Chairman: If there is any list you wanted to give us that fell in that category, I, for one, would be glad to have it.

Dr. Psutka: I would like to point out that the list we handed out was of the top drugs in the Ontario drug benefit program. You make reference to the volume of prescriptions. There are many drugs of very small volume on which, potentially, pharmacists may not be recouping.

Mr. Chairman: If they are good comparisons for our purposes, fine. If they are not, I do not want them either. If it is easy to do it, please do.

Can we assume that next Wednesday we shall have a presentation on paramedics at 10 a.m. and that if all parties are not represented at that time, we can start with the presentation? That is agreed.

We have now put in four and a half hours today, and we shall go from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. next week.

The committee adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Health

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, December 4, 1985
Morning Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, December 4, 1985

The committee met at 10:05 a.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. We welcome Dr. Psutka, assistant deputy minister of emergency services, laboratories and drug programs, who will be showing us some slides.

Dr. Psutka: In May 1983 the emergency health services division of the Ministry of Health was asked to put together a project to test the form and content of paramedic training, to work out the precise policy, legal and operational requirements in support of effective paramedic service delivery and to provide accurate information on which to base manpower and cost implication forecasts for future advanced life-support expansion in Ontario.

The emergency division is charged with running the land and air ambulance system in this province. It was also given the responsibility of looking into disaster planning as far as health care systems are concerned, which means hospital and prehospital care. It was to begin to explore the rationalization and categorization of emergency rooms and critical care units and, as I stated, it was given the job in 1983 of exploring paramedicine, or the expansion of advanced life-support into the prehospital sector.

The paramedic concept has had a stormy inception. It goes back to the early 1950s, when we began to have modalities available to us such as cardiac resuscitation and defibrillators on the street.

Members will note that it was in Belfast in about 1965 that we had the beginnings of paramedics who began to run around and pick up not only those injured from the carnage of the ongoing civil unrest there but also heart attack victims, because there was a very high heart attack rate due to the stress of living in that area.

Miami was the first community in North America to have paramedics. They began to use telemetry, which was a transmission of electrocardiographs back to a hospital.

As well, in 1969 Johnny and Roy, two people who became famous for their television program, started up in Los Angeles. It is these people who

brought about the public awareness that paramedics were probably a good thing. It is important to note, however, that Johnny and Roy were on TV for 10 years and it was only in the last year of their programming they actually lost a patient. That was a conscious decision of the programmers, because they felt Johnny and Roy should become a little more realistic.

On the other hand, because of this media attention and also because in 1973 the American federal government granted funds to communities that began to plan emergency health systems, there was an explosion in paramedicine below the border. Some of this crept up into Ontario, and there was all kinds of activity, with reports being written and many people getting involved. In fact, in 1970 a pilot paramedic program was run out of Kingston. About 30 or 40 people were trained, who never did go on the street as paramedics.

In the United States, however, there was such a flurry of excitement that a lot of people got into paramedicine who were somewhat like this gentleman. The training programs were haphazard and there was a lot of confusion, which is just recently being brought into order as more and more states are organizing themselves. There are now national standards for paramedics.

Here in Ontario in the late 1970s there was a flurry of excitement as two or three cities—Sault Ste. Marie, Oshawa and North Bay—began to run paramedic programs of different types but aimed mainly at heart attack victims. A lot of lobbying was applied to the government, with the resultant decision to go ahead with a pilot project.

It is important to note where the lobby came from if you are to understand the direction of the program. It had to do with the fact that people looked at the total number of deaths in the province and said that if we applied modern medical techniques to the street many of these people—or some of them, anyway—might have a better chance at survival.

If you look at the heart attack victims in the province in the prehospital sector, those who take Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses are told that if they apply CPR and there is a system of paramedicine and advanced life support, large

numbers of people could be saved and would continue to lead fruitful lives.

The media also picked up on the concept of the Seattle system. It was stated on 60 Minutes that Seattle is the best place in North America to have a heart attack, because it has a large number of survivors, somewhere in the line of 30 lives saved per 100,000 population base, which is where these kinds of numbers come from.

What it says there, if you can read it, is that taking Seattle's numbers of 30 lives saved per 100,000 population base and applying it to Metro Toronto with 2.5 million people, we should save more than 500 people a year here in Metro. In fact, one headline that appeared in the media pointed out that a large number of people out there potentially could be saved. Of interest is that nobody at that time had any numbers on the actual number of cardiac arrests; they were applying American data to the Canadian system.

Another part of the system that began to expand with paramedicine was that of trauma. We have to realize that the American system has a fair amount of knife and gun club activity, as you can see in that slide. This poor victim has had a stab wound in the upper abdomen on the left-hand side and, as you can see, paramedics are working on him and starting an intravenous and things like this.

It was perceived that because there were such good results from applying hospital techniques on the street with heart attack victims, applying hospital techniques to trauma victims would also work. There was a great flurry in the United States in the 1970s about organizing their hospitals into trauma system care and the development of trauma centres. The whole concept of rapid load-and-go by helicopter to a hospital was conceived as a result, probably, of the Korean war experience and then the Vietnam war experience of the American army. They began to apply these techniques back in the United States.

This is our helicopter from Sudbury, by the way, landing on a highway outside Sudbury and picking up a victim; so even here in Ontario we are using that type of approach.

With all that lobbying, we were told to get on with testing the concept of paramedicine within the Ontario system. I would point out that Ontario is not the United States, and it has unique factors. One is the vastness of it, the fact that most of the people live down in the south. On the other hand, we do have a universal health care system with comprehensive care, and there is a difference in our paramedics required.

This is a very busy slide, but it points out that we were given the go-ahead in January, and between January and June we began to train. We had a lot of activities to take part in. First of all, an institute of learning was chosen, the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology. This is an institute over by Mount Sinai Hospital that basically trains technicians for health care and X-ray lab, and it was only too pleased to mount the project with us.

We had dialogue with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Toronto General Hospital, Sunnybrook Medical Centre and Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals, all of which were chosen by their health councils as base hospitals for this pilot project. We also explored the matter with the advisory committee at TIMT and we had a provincial curriculum committee that had already set up a curriculum for training.

The original pilot was also to include training of the helicopter attendants in Sudbury and Thunder Bay, and that is why it appears on the bottom. That part of the project, as I will report later on, did not come to fruition, but we are working in that direction to finalize it.

The program was designed to include 12 weeks of training at the institute and at the base hospitals. As you can see, this was broken down into weeks spent learning how to start intravenous, working in the intensive care unit, the emergency room and the critical care unit, among others. Six weeks were then spent on the ambulances.

While they were in the hospitals, the paramedic trainees worked as part of the teams, not only in the operating rooms but also in the emergency room; and as you can see here, they were part and parcel of the delivery team in the hospital. This was part of the concept of bonding them into the health care system.

One of the problems with ambulance attendants has been that they had been somewhat ostracized from the health care team. They work outside, they come to the emergency room and they literally leave; nurses and doctors do not relate all that well to them in the majority of cases.

As you can see here, they spend a lot of time with physicians, developing this relationship and learning how to speak a language they can share with the health care providers. They also, of course, were supervised by nurses. Basically this is just a slide from one of their exercises, but it shows that a good rapport was developed across the team.

As soon as they had their 12 weeks of training they were put out in the cars on the street, and for the first three weeks they were supervised directly by physicians. The person on the left there is an emergency room physician. A physician rode with these people for that time to orient them and to ensure they were performing adequately out on the street.

After that they were left on their own, except that in this province you cannot perform as a paramedic and do delegated medical acts unless you are in direct radio contact with a physician at a base hospital who is responsible for patient care. In other words, that physician delegates the authority to perform the acts you have seen here, such as starting the intravenous, giving oxygen or whatever.

You might want to hand these out.

On the other hand, we train these people in delegated acts. The first area we concentrated on was the management of airway. That included not only learning how to use the bag valve mask that this paramedic is holding in his hand, but also how to intubate, or put a tube down through your mouth into your lungs, to secure your airway and allow you to breathe oxygen. You could be ventilated by using that device in his hand; that would help you if you were in respiratory distress.

We also taught them how to pass a tube through your nose into your lungs in case there were problems in your mouth and they were unable to secure an airway. In cases where there was great trouble to your face and they were unable to secure an airway, they were taught how to put a needle into your trachea through your neck and put oxygen into your lungs this way. This is very sophisticated treatment, and you will find when you look at the statistics that this is not used at this time in any case. In fact, we are probably recommending that this not be part of the armamentarium.

The other thing we taught them was to put a needle into your chest if you had an escape of air into your pre-lung area causing a pneumothorax, or blood in there causing a haemothorax. They were allowed to put a needle into your chest and to evacuate the blood, the fluid or the air or whatever.

They were taught how to use a defibrillator and a cardiac monitor, how to interpret rhythms and explain them to the base hospital physician and how to defibrillate patients if they found they were having that kind of heart problem. As you can see here, the defibrillator was used quite frequently as a monitoring device, and you will

find in the statistics that it was probably the second-most-utilized piece of equipment.

They were also taught how to start intravenouses. You can see an intravenous being held by somebody here as the paramedics work on the ground with this victim trapped under a truck in Hamilton. The intravenous was also one of the number one modalities used on the street.

They were taught how to use medical anti-shock trousers. They are a variation of the military G suit. It is used for victims of shock, the concept being that it will improve your blood pressure.

They also had drugs. This is not all drugs. This is the total amount of equipment they were trained on. The drug box in the lower right had something like 12 to 13 drugs; they are on your list. They were taught how to use those drugs and when to use them, again under the direction of a physician.

They were also given access to nitrous oxide/analgesic combinations, which is laughing gas, in a 50:50 combination with oxygen. It is what dentists use to induce a sort of twilight sleep. The concept of this was that people having severe pain could breathe this and it would alleviate their pain. This was something we have also had difficulties with.

This is being used in ambulance services around the world. Surprisingly, nobody in the world had bothered to test the ambient levels of nitrous oxide in the ambulance. When we worked with the Ministry of Labour, we found that when we tested the air in the ambulance when this device was being used there was a risk to the driver and the attendant that they, too, could be obtunded. We have had difficulties in using this equipment because we cannot evacuate the gases very well from the ambulance.

10:20 a.m.

In fact one of the doctors, I am told, having demonstrated this to the students, 15 minutes later got into his car and drove through the gate at the parking lot of the Toronto General Hospital. So we were a little concerned about this modality.

While all this was taking place, we were running around getting vehicles ready. We chose this vehicle, which is a regular ambulance with a high-rise roof. It gives more room inside and allows intravenouses to be hung. Four of these were put in Toronto and two in Hamilton. Radio equipment also had to be obtained and special packages had to be put in place in both cities.

One of the things we have found from the pilot project is that we are going to have difficulties in

Metro, especially where all the radio channels have been used. Unless we go to cellular radio, different types of systems or a different range of radio frequencies, there will be difficulty in expanding the program.

We also found that we have to have a total system here and that the paramedics were not going to be put on the street without support systems around them. One of the things we had learned is that paramedics by themselves are somewhat useless. They require a very sophisticated system in which to function, and 911 is one of the requirements, we felt, to ensure there was a tiered public-safety-agency response.

In other words, in Toronto and Hamilton when you call 911 and say there is a collapsed victim, potentially an unconscious patient, the dispatchers co-ordinate the activities of those three public safety agencies so that a trained professional first-aider is at your side as quickly as possible. In other words, the police, fire and ambulance crews work together to ensure a rapid response time.

We also had to get the base hospital physicians trained. The physicians in the base hospitals were all full-time emergency physicians, but none of them had worked with paramedics before. They were also a little uncertain about radio etiquette, among other things, and it was a whole new learning experience for them to work by remote control, as it were, with paramedics on the street and to rely only on their input.

This is the base hospital station in Hamilton. This is a base hospital physician looking at a screen, where telemetry is transmitting the patient's heart rhythm.

We have found in the pilot project that telemetry is redundant, that the paramedics do not require this, nor do the base hospital physicians. Systems in the United States that have spent a lot of money on these have been putting them into mothballs, so we are going to be recommending that telemetry is not required. Of course, the final decision will have to be made by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, because it is that organization that allows the delegation of medical acts in this province. We will be making a strong recommendation to it that telemetry is not necessary to control paramedics.

On the right, way in the back, there is a monitor, and that is the bed inventory system in Hamilton. This is not available in Toronto, and there has definitely been a difference in the pilot projects of these systems. By the way, this system lists all the available beds in Hamilton. As you can see, it lists the emergency room beds,

emergency-room-monitor beds, critical care beds, intensive care beds, surgical beds, paediatric beds, etc. It lists the vacancy rate of each hospital, which beds are available and how its emergency rooms are.

This system has worked exceptionally well in Hamilton and has literally eliminated waiting periods and the concept that there are no beds available. Used with the base hospital physicians and the dispatchers, this has been a definite improvement in health care delivery in Hamilton. As you all know, it was announced more than a year ago that this was potentially going to be put in place in Windsor, London, Toronto, Ottawa, Sudbury and Thunder Bay. At this point Sudbury and Windsor have sent in their submissions and have received approval for funding to proceed; the other communities are working quite aggressively to make it happen. I believe this is a definite improvement and should be encouraged.

The dispatchers in the systems had to learn to use these people. This is the dispatch centre in Metro, which is very heavily utilized. There are more than 60,000 to 70,000 calls per year in Metro alone. I may be low on those numbers, in fact. Anyway, they had to learn how to use these people, and we had to develop algorithms for the paramedics that the dispatchers could use. There is now an algorithm in place across the province as a result of the pilot project. It is now used in all dispatch centres to assist the ambulances and to tier the response.

We also had to develop a whole new record, because we knew we would have to evaluate this system for Management Board. Therefore, to get the data, we had to develop a record, which has been done and has been in use. I can tell you now that the records on the streets by the paramedics are probably equal to or, in many cases, better than the records that are being kept in hospitals.

All in all, we had a lot of work to do and we have finally come to grips with it. There is a draft proposal that will be going forward in the ministry as a result of this program and it has many things in it. I would like to share some of the things we have found in the project and perhaps fill you in on any questions.

The evaluation involves not only the ministry but also the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the base hospitals and the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology. If you went out to the citizens of this province, they would tell you, as you can see from this picture, that as far as they are concerned, paramedics are a good thing.

We did not know whether we had done a very good job. Much to our surprise, when we sent our teams to international competitions we found out they did very well. One of our teams not only came first in the Canadian advanced life-support paramedic competitions, but also when we sent it to Florida, it came second in North America despite the efforts of the Americans to distract our team by sending their prettiest paramedics. The team was beaten only by the local team which had won the year before. So we are quite proud that this pilot project has achieved that much. As you can see, these people are quite proud of their achievements also.

On the other hand, we have found that if you are going to have paramedics in this province, you need to have a system in which they can work. As you are well aware, we have been preaching the 15 components of emergency health services now for over five years. In the 15 components, paramedics are not mentioned other than as trained personnel. Despite the fact that everybody thinks they are the most important part of the system, they are only part of a system and it is the system that is important to develop in the province.

The system is designed to provide emergency health care and the important thing to remember in any critical care matter is there is a game called beat the clock. If you have trouble, whether it be a heart attack, trauma or whatever, there is a certain time component to your disease during which we have to have an impact.

For example, if you are having a heart attack, it is well known that there are about four minutes during which something should be done, otherwise you will not do very well. In trauma, that can vary depending on what has happened to you. What it all comes down to is that we have to have a system and it cannot just operate with ambulances. It has to include everybody.

Basically that system should have a user-friendly entry point. By the way, the 911 number is still a raging controversy in many of our centres. After 11 years of dialogue, Ottawa has approved it to a certain point, but there is still some problem there. Mississauga just approved its system and there is still a controversy in Niagara Falls which will not be addressed until the early part of 1986.

Anyway, the 911 number is a user-friendly number for all of us and is not just a plot of the ministry or the government. It is something we should all have access to. As we all travel around the province, I can tell you there are many numbers we have to memorize if we have to get

help. When you dial that number, you should get a tiered response of police, fire and ambulance.

Basically the first part of any response is consumers. As you can see, the young lady in the background, a consumer, should not stand back and say, "Oh, dear." Consumers should have first aid training that allows them to take part in the problem. I think we have to be cognizant of the fact that in any emergency, the first five or 10 minutes is going to be our own responsibility. We have been trying to encourage cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and first aid training. Over 2,000 employees in the government have been trained as part of the Ministry of Health endeavour to ensure that takes place.

The other thing is that once we get past the citizen, there has to be a co-ordinated response. As you can see from this slide, it takes more than two people to run a heart attack problem at the scene. Here you can see at least six people and this includes police, fire and ambulance all working to save a life. It is a very intense endeavour.

10:30 a.m.

One of the problems we have determined, not from this pilot project but from analysing the data from North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Oshawa, is that those communities that put paramedics on the road without having a system have not had the kind of results they would like to have.

They have not been able to get a team response until recently. In fact, the programs did not produce very good results in their first few years.

It is now quite obvious from the literature that you have to get the defibrillator to the victim within the first five minutes if you are going to save a heart attack victim. If you can apply the defibrillator to patients fibrillating within a minute, in a hospital, 60 per cent of the people will survive the episode.

This becomes apparent when the statistics for heart attack victims are broken down in the literature. We have the experience from Pittsburgh here shown on this chart. The right side shows the number who are in fibrillation. It is 15 per cent of those people—if you can see at the bottom—who survive hospital care and go home.

On the other side there are people who have every other kind of problem that causes heart attacks. Most of them have cardiac standstill. They do not do well, even in the hospital, and only three per cent survive.

They were well aware of this in Seattle. They have a system that everybody has tried to copy over the years. Seattle is the best community in North America; there is no denying that. They

have created the remarkable system based on the 911 telephone number. They have achieved citizen cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training in 40 per cent of the population. They also have a remarkable response time. We have not achieved these response times in either Hamilton or Toronto.

You will see in the paper that our paramedics are getting to the scene in a little under seven minutes. In Seattle, they are getting paramedics there in five minutes. They are able to save more lives because of this. They have had very good statistics in the citizen CPR program, the 911 plan, the response times and the paramedics.

I doubt that any city in this province will ever emulate Seattle. The reason is Seattle had a remarkable experience at the turn of the century, when most of the city burned down. The city fathers got very upset about that. They built 32 fire stations in a community covering an area measuring six miles by 18 miles. There are 14 hospitals. They have a great fire code; nothing burns down any more. The fire department is spending all its time running around saving lives. It is a unique system. However, it is a benchmark. We should try to copy it as best we can.

On the other hand, this is how we dealt with our cardiac-arrest cases in our own system. This is data from Hamilton and Toronto. You can see this on the bottom of the slide. We separated the people who were fibrillating. In other words, 12 per cent of the people who should have had good results survived and went home from hospital when there was no citizen CPR. Twenty per cent went home from hospital when there was citizen CPR.

You can also see there was definite improvement in the advanced life-support paramedic approach, in comparison to the basic ambulance approach with two per cent. I think it is necessary to note that citizen CPR is extremely important.

Ten per cent of all the cases were done with citizen CPR at the beginning of our assessment. However, this has dropped off to 4.6 per cent in the last few months. This is one of the things that concerns me. I do not know the exact reason. I do fear it is due to the paranoia that is now circulating in the province surrounding acquired immune deficiency syndrome. I wonder whether this will continue to drop off. I suggest the chances of having good statistics in the total package will be lower than in Seattle if it does.

We should forget about lives saved. I suggest to you that the numbers in the press two or three years ago were not accurate. We are never going

to see 400 people walk away from this program. The point of the matter is that the program has a definite impact on preventing heart attacks.

The data is a bit complicated. However, we are saying that by sending paramedics to the scene, when chest pain appears and before a cardiac arrest, we have prevented cardiac arrest and probably improved the care in the system. The most important time in a heart attack is the first four hours. We give them drugs at home and transport them to a hospital in a safe environment.

Trauma still remains a controversy. Surprisingly, in the last two years while the pilot project was under way, literature has surfaced in all world centres, along with the raging controversy about whether or not paramedics have any role outside of the hospital in the treatment of trauma victims. Now I know that sounds like heresy, but there is a big reason for this.

There is some feeling mounting in the literature that paramedics were put into place in the systems of trauma care because it was felt that if they worked in cardiac care they should work in trauma care.

What happened was they were put in place without demonstrated effectiveness of some of the things they were doing. Cost-benefit analysis was not done, and there was very poor documentation.

As critical-care and emergency medicine have come of age in the last few years, there is research going on in these areas and I would like to dwell a bit on some of the controversies.

The most important thing that is coming out of it is that we should seriously try to prevent most trauma cases, and if we cannot then we should try and rush them as fast as possible to a surgeon, the reason being that most people in trauma die from surgical events such as bleeding, suffocation or head injuries. Therefore, the important thing is to get them to a surgeon.

The prevention of trauma is extremely important. If you look at the statistics from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for the last year, we now have the lowest number of trauma deaths ever recorded for motor vehicle accidents in this province. That is without a paramedic system in place across the province. I suggest that is due strictly to prevention.

Last night on the way home from the office, I left around 10 p.m. after putting these slides together, I was stopped at the bottom of Jarvis Street by the reduce impaired driving everywhere program. That program has had a tremendous impact. Whether we like it or not, it works. I got

home all right. I commended the officer, gave him a citation, and started chewing my gum even more intensely.

On the other hand, what about the system? What have we learned here in Toronto and Hamilton? We have learned that in large metropolitan areas the important thing is to get the severely injured patient to the right hospital; delaying at the scene to do too much could actually increase the morbidity.

The real issue in major cities is to decide which of the hospitals in town will accept the most severely traumatized victims and be able to respond quickly to the patient's needs.

This means that as we go around the province communities will have to decide which of their hospitals, if they have a choice, should be the trauma-receiving hospital. That does not mean it is a trauma centre, it just means it is the hospital in town that has the resources 24 hours a day to handle the people who are bleeding, suffocating or have head injuries.

This job has not been done at this point. This is data from two years ago when we surveyed all hospitals in the province with emergency rooms. We found that many of them had cardiac arrest teams in place; however, only 25 out of 200 had a trauma resuscitation team. That does not mean they are trauma centres, it just means they had thought about how to handle trauma and what they would do when that victim came to them.

You have to understand how people die in trauma to understand the controversy. These are data taken from Dr. Trunkey from San Francisco, who is the world expert on trauma. He probably sees more trauma in one year than we see in the whole province.

He has determined, as have other experts, that there is a trimodal distribution to death in trauma. Many people, 50 per cent, die within the first 10 to 15 minutes, and those people will not do well anywhere in the world. As Dr. Trunkey says, "That 50 per cent, even if they had their trauma outside my hospital," and he likes to brag that he is the best, "would not do very well."

The only way you can have an impact on those people is by prevention; and that means no drinking and driving and better gun control in the United States, among other things.

He points out that another blip of fatality, about 30 per cent, die in the next two hours. As far as Dr. Trunkey is concerned, if a system is in place and those people go to the right hospital, they should do very well.

Twenty per cent of people who get to a hospital die there anywhere from one to four or five days, or even two weeks later.

10:40 a.m.

If we look at deaths in the province, it is interesting to note that in the Sudbury area one of the doctors did a little survey and came across the fact that there had been autopsies done on all the trauma victims in the Sudbury basin for 10 years. He found there had been 339 trauma deaths autopsied. Of those, 279 died at the scene, 11 died in the emergency room and 49 died in the hospital. A large number died outside of hospital.

That is the problem we have in Ontario, especially in the remote areas where it is a long way to the hospital. How do we get those people to the hospital so they have a chance?

He also reviewed the causes of death of those 279 people, and found that 95 were head injuries and 54 had major blood vessel trauma. He also stated, after autopsies, that those people were not salvageable. In other words, those were Dr. Trunkey's Humpty-Dumpties who died very quickly and nothing could be done for them. We have to accept that fact. The only way to prevent those deaths, again, is by prevention.

On the other hand, there are 130 patients who potentially could have been salvaged. What is not said on this slide is that those people had minor injuries. There was the potential that if they received something before getting to the hospital they might have made it.

So what can we do for those people in trauma? What has the paramedic project told us? It has told us that the basic ambulance system is extremely important. Most of the things our basic ambulance attendants can do are necessary to save lives. What they need, however, is a definition of where to take these people. There has to be a system developed in their area.

On the other hand, are the advanced techniques such as intubation, intravenous, and medical anti-shock trousers and all that, of any value? In a major city, those techniques are okay if they can be done without delaying transit of the patient to the nearest hospital. In remote rural communities, they should be used if we are going to try to salvage the people who can make it to hospital.

As for intubation, it is magic. In other words, putting a tube into the lungs of a patient who had a facial disruption from a trauma allowed him to breathe and prevented him from suffocating. To me, that is not magic and it can be done. We have found that intubation is trainable and it is done with some ease by the attendants. I am sure the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario will be pleased to hear that because it had been

having difficulty in deciding whether that is a delegated act.

On the other hand, what about starting intravenous? As we have found, we have started a lot of intravenous. The point is, does it save a trauma victim's life? If you are bleeding severely—we are talking about rates of flow here—you will not be able to start enough intravenous to replace the blood as fast as it is running out. Therefore to stop and try to start an IV will not work.

If somebody, however, is bleeding at a slower rate, I am talking about victims who may be 30 to 60 minutes away from a hospital and are not bleeding all that badly, they should have an IV started. Therefore, I see a role for intravenous therapy in the rural communities.

With MAST pants, briefly: these things have been bought, put in place and now everybody in the literature is saying they do not know if they work. We still do not know if they work after two years because we have not applied them that often. We are now mounting a definitive research project in Hamilton to determine whether there is an effect from these pants in the prehospital sector.

In trauma, paramedicine is still up in the air. There is however, definitely a role for intubation and IV starts, especially in the rural parts of this province.

Other things the paramedic project has told us about, leaving out trauma and heart attack victims, is diabetics and people with asthma. We are very much impressed that the administration of drugs in the prehospital sector for asthmatic victims has definitely improved their care and we are now compiling data. We hope to show it has probably prevented some hospital admissions and shortened the stay of other people in the hospital system.

A couple of other things to dwell on: we have become more and more convinced that 911 is extremely important. This slide shows the communities that now have it in place. There are vast parts of the province, mind you, that do not have it in place, but planning is going on at the emergency health committees in the various areas. They are working in those communities to encourage the development of this number. It is not something that happens easily. I thought it would, but there would appear to be a great political battle being fought in the local areas.

Base hospital delegation: we are working on it. A base hospital paper has been sent out as part of the project. Communities are looking at it. It is not an easy job to be a base hospital. It is very

difficult to run a paramedic program. We expect a lot from those people. One of the problems we are going to have in putting paramedics in place across the province will be to get commitments by physicians in hospitals to take part in the project.

It all sounds as if it is glamorous and fun, but we found that within four weeks of starting to run paramedics, the physicians at the hospitals were getting a bit bothered by answering the telephone. We are having some difficulties that have to be worked through. I suggest we have a concept in this province that strong physician control is important if the system is to work, and it may be a bit of a problem to maintain it.

The other thing is that we have to rationalize our hospital system. Now that we will have workers in the field who can literally diagnose the problem with their physicians by radio, they can take the patient to the appropriate hospital. That is important, especially when one has to look at such things as head injuries. The important aspect is to get the head injury patient to a neurosurgeon, and the important thing to the dispatcher and the ambulance crew is to know where the neurosurgeon is.

As far as the future is concerned, as I stated earlier, we have failed as far as training the attendants on helicopters is concerned. There were reasons for that. We had four attendants based in Thunder Bay and Sudbury. We brought them to Toronto early on in the project and they did not do very well. It is difficult to know why. We suspect that part of it was because they were out of their environment. They did not do well in the program, and it was decided that rather than have them go through the program and push them through, it would be better to undertake the training back in their locale.

We have been working on that. There has been a recent announcement that the air ambulance program will be expanded to a 24-hour operation and that the people who until now have been ministry employees will become employees of the base hospitals, they will be extensions of the hospital. The other thing we have found is that we were probably making a mistake in attempting to train the air critical care attendants as primary response land paramedics. The program we had in Toronto was to train primary response land paramedics.

These people are not that kind of beast; they are beyond that. They spend more time with the patients and they are working with the most critically ill and injured patients in the province. They spend two to four hours with them in these

transfers, they do more therapy than the land paramedics and they have to use respirators and more drugs. We feel these people are more sophisticated. Perhaps the pilot project was a success inasmuch as we did not train these people into something they are not. I think what we will be doing in the next few months, as we expand the northern program and train these people to critical care capabilities, will be the right decision.

As to other things we are looking at, we have decided that since the most important thing for heart attack victims is a defibrillator, perhaps we should concentrate on bringing the defibrillator to the patient rather than on a tremendous team effort.

One thing the Americans have done, and they are always on top of every situation to make money, is that they have now introduced an automatic defibrillator. This is the first model. As you can see, there are paddles on the left. If you put these things on, the machine reads the arrhythmia, says the patient is fibrillating and then shocks him. You do not have to train anybody; the machine does all the work for you.

They have put these in place in some small communities on the American scene, especially in the state of Iowa. They put them in communities with 2,000, 3,000 or 4,000, even with one ambulance. They train the crews in basics. They have applied them and have had some success; however, they only use them about once a year. One would have to ask, "Is it cost effective or just another marketing device to sell more equipment?"

Another thing we are wondering about is the application of intravenous and MAST in the rural areas. We feel that a pilot project should be mounted in some of our remote communities, especially where there is a large amount of trauma, to see whether there is an improvement. It is well documented that your chances of dying from trauma are four times greater if you live in a rural community than if you live in a city. In major cities such as Windsor, London and Ottawa where there are no paramedics, we wonder what kind of paramedics we need.

10:50 a.m.

I did not mention the drugs; we had about 12 drugs in the box. We feel we probably have too many drugs in the box even with 12. In fact, the American Heart Association has now eliminated two of the drugs from the box in the United States, and we will be looking at fewer drugs.

We have a project which has almost reached its conclusion. It is supposed to be finalized by the

end of this year. We have extended it until the end of the fiscal year so people will not be left up in the air as to their jobs and secure futures. We will be coming forward through the ministry to Management Board with our report and will be waiting for a decision on what we will do in the future.

Thank you for your time. I brought along a video tape which shows the system working. If you want to see it, it will help you to understand what I have been saying. It is nice to look at pictures and to see movies at the same time. This tape shows how 911 works in Metro Toronto and what happens when you dial the number. Most of us are completely unaware of what goes on when you dial that number.

The committee viewed an audio-visual presentation at 10:52 a.m.

11:07 a.m.

Dr. Psutka: As you can see, it is a very complicated system but it does work. In the study time, we have had, looking at the total number of heart attacks—I think there were over 200—18 people have now gone home from hospital. That is not many, I suppose, but it does point out that it can occur.

Our results are comparable to those in Seattle, looking at those people who received citizens' CPR and who were in ventricular fibrillation. The important thing about the paramedic program is that it is not only for heart attack victims; it is a total systems package.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any questions relative to the presentation?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I missed part of the presentation, but I may have caught it last year. Did you update members of the committee on what had happened since the training stopped and evaluation is under way? Could you tell us where that is at and what is anticipated for the future?

Dr. Psutka: As I pointed out, the program was set up to determine a number of things. The first was to test the content and format of the training program to work out policy and legal implications and to give us a data base so we can make decisions. All those things had been accomplished. We are now finalizing the report, which is in its third draft.

We are working with the base hospitals and the training institute and will be going to the college of physicians and surgeons in the next few weeks and also to the ministry management committee, then proceeding to the Management Board with the report of what we have achieved and what we feel are some future directions.

We feel the paramedics are a valid addition and an integral part of the whole system. In other words, they do some good by themselves, but they can do a heck of a lot more good if there is a system to support them. I think the communities in the province have been brought up to speed on this and are well aware of it. I think 24 or 25 of the 26 health councils in the province now have emergency planning committees. They have been working and preparing reports, and looking at the 15 components and how those things can be addressed in their areas.

We have six area committees co-ordinating the system in each area of the province, and a provincial committee is setting guidelines and policy. We have circulated the base hospital paper and a critical care transportation paper and we will be circulating this report, so things are happening. It may appear to be slow, but when you see the complexities as shown in that film it does not come easily.

There are even communities that jumped into it earlier. I again allude to Oshawa, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay. In Oshawa, they are working towards a 911 number. They now have a tiered response that they did not have before. The hospital has funded a citizens' cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training program, which is well under way. They are working on more intense base hospital control and are improving their system.

We were just in Sault Ste. Marie. Dr. John Crosby from my division was there a few weeks ago and there was a big meeting. The physicians in town were very concerned. They want to look at determining a base hospital and they want to look at 24-hour physician coverage. One of the biggest problems we have is scheduling committed physicians to work with the program.

We are going to suggest that paramedicine has a role. I feel there is a major role in upgrading the basic ambulance system in the rural, remote parts of the province to enable some adjuncts to be done. You will not see the same kind of paramedic you saw in the film in rural Ontario, because a lot of the things these people do in the big city require huge system support, and to be blunt, a heart attack 35 miles from town is not going to do very well unless we get into the age of automatic defibrillation and things such as that, which potentially are coming down the road.

On the other hand, there is a desperate need for improvement in trauma care, not only building a system, but also in building the communications and providing the paramedics with some of the techniques we talked about for those areas.

In major cities, where there is a major systems commitment such as 911, a tiered response, a base hospital and citizens' CPR, this type of paramedic is a worthwhile addition. Without that commitment, I think it would be a waste of money. In fact, many systems in the United States have not gone that route. They have put paramedics in place and they are not getting the results they should.

We have had the opportunity to explore more than 15 years of experience, and with what is happening in critical care, the report will make current recommendations for the future. I think it will be a good report.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Will the report also address the regional trauma?

Dr. Psutka: You wanted an update on that. Was that not given to you?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is this part of the information that was handed out during the presentation?

Dr. Psutka: I thought it was given to you the other day, but if it was not, there is an update. If you wish, I can fill you in.

What is going on in trauma is that about 10 years ago, the Americans started talking about a thing called trauma system care. The concept was to categorize hospitals. One has to realize there is a lot more trauma in the United States than we have here; that is the first thing. They have a lot of penetrating trauma, meaning bullet wounds and knife wounds as compared to our trauma, which is mainly industrial- and accident-related.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I listen to the American news when I am in Windsor.

Dr. Psutka: You are well aware then. I forgot you are on the edge of trauma city.

They put together guidelines for the categorization of hospitals. We have been looking at those guidelines, and there is a working group that is about one meeting away from a final report for guidelines tailor-made to fit Ontario.

The real issue in Ontario is that it is nice to think we could have trauma centres all over, but we have to be realistic. More than 50 per cent of our hospitals have less than 100 beds. When you are up north or in rural Ontario, and there is only the one hospital for the next 60 miles, it has to have a trauma response. We are working on how to upgrade those little hospitals to have a trauma resuscitation response.

The other thing in your community is, which of the hospitals is going to receive trauma cases? I had a phone call from one of the physicians in

Windsor the other day, and she was most concerned. She had been given the job of trying to co-ordinate the plan and was getting very frustrated. There have been reports from many people working there.

What it comes down to is commitment. Her point was that she was having difficulty getting even four or five surgeons who would agree to be on call to respond within 20 or 30 minutes, because that is what we are really talking about. I said to her, "If you can tell me which hospital in Windsor is going to be the trauma resuscitation hospital, the critical care facility for that town, I can definitely have the ambulances go there. The Ambulance Act allows me to do that."

It is a decision that has to be made, and I think when we put our guidelines together, which should be by January or February, that will help her in the community in making a decision. It is a tough decision for hospitals to make. They all want to be trauma units, but when you get down to it, it is a difficult job to be a good one.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not want to talk about hospitals today, but I have a final question about the paramedics. You said the report is your third draft. When can we actually expect something to which members of the Legislature and members of the public will have access, to read and get an idea of where we are going?

Dr. Psutka: I hope we will be taking this forward to the ministry's management committee before Christmas. I do not know what the timing is, although I know there is a lot of paper.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It might be early fall.

Dr. Psutka: It should be within a few months.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is the minister's expectation that it will be some time early in the new year? Will some report on paramedics be released in late winter, meaning late February or March, or in early spring, meaning late March or early April? I know you just came out of cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, actually I did not. We are prepared to move on it as quickly as we can. I am looking forward to material coming up and then we will move as quickly as we can. I do not know dates and I cannot tell you exactly, but we are dealing with it as quickly as we can.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am sure the review, assessments and so forth have been thorough and that out of this will come a very good program. On the other hand, those of us who do not live in Toronto or Hamilton and have not had access to some of these services constantly feel that if we are not in a teaching hospital area, we get second-rate everything in health care. I think

many outside of Toronto are anxiously looking to see when we will get some of these services, specifically paramedics, so we will feel that in at least one area we will be closer to what is available in the bigger centres.

Dr. Psutka: As I said, your area is very close to having many of the components in place. You already have 911 and that sets it apart from many of the communities in the province. Your emergency rooms are manned 24 hours a day.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When they are open and when they can receive people.

Dr. Psutka: That is right. You are on your way to getting your bed inventory. I do not know the status of your police-fire tiered response. Something is going on in that area. A lot of the homework has been done. I guess one reason we picked Hamilton and Toronto was we knew their homework had been done previously. If we were given directions to start this up and had to go out and do in six months what we saw on the videotape—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not disagree with why Toronto and Hamilton were chosen. I am just looking forward to this process, which has been long, difficult and thorough, ending so that we can start seeing some of these services put in place.

Mr. Chairman: The minister has pointed out that there is probably nobody from Toronto on this committee. Are there a few things you would like to change in view of that?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It does not bother me.

11:20 a.m.

Mr. Wiseman: In your presentation, you mentioned Kingston and said there had been quite a push for paramedics there and that there was a doctor with a hospital that pushed it back in the 1970s. How did he react to the fact that Kingston, having a teaching hospital and being one of the first in the province to push this so much, was not one of the pilot projects?

Dr. Psutka: Going back in time, Dr. Ghent, a surgeon in Kingston and Dr. McNally, who was the director of ambulance services at the ministry in the early 1970s, decided that paramedics should be trained. Perhaps they had vision beyond their capabilities. They were on the right track and probably trained very sophisticated paramedics. They had a two-year training course for paramedics, almost a paradoctor.

The only problem was that the system was not available once they left the training program. There was no tiered response, there was no 911 and there was no dispatching. They just withered

on the vine. That taught us something. You might ask, "What happened to them?" It was not really a failure; it was a positive event in a way. We learned that we could train people, but we also learned that they need to have something to fit into; otherwise it would not work.

Those people have gone on to other careers. Three or four work for the ministry as senior managers in emergency health, so the training has helped as far as they are concerned.

Getting back to Kingston, around the time we started this pilot project there was a great kerfuffle about a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. announcer who had a cardiac arrest. I think it made major national news about CPR and paramedics. A lot of work has been done in Kingston in the past two years. They have analysed their need and they have realized it is a small community. The population is not dense. How many people had arrests? There were about 100 on the street. They figure there is the potential for some paramedic acts.

They have come forward to the ministry and asked that they be allowed to mount a pilot plan for a small town paramedic. They are saying they want somebody who can put a tube in your throat and intubate and guarantee your airway. They want someone who can be the defibrillator, meaning they can apply the paddles and give countershock, and they want to be able to start an intravenous and put MAST PASC on. That is all they want to do because they feel that is all they need.

That is the kind of approach we are intrigued by because it points out that the local community has looked at its needs and at what it feels it can handle. Taking the modules we have put together through the pilot project, they will tailor-make a paramedic for that area. We are very keen on that. That probably is one of the recommendations in the report, that this type of pilot be tried.

Mr. Wiseman: My riding is close to Kingston and many of the referrals by our doctors are to Kingston. Knowing the doctor had started this, many of the people in my area—in fact, one of my opponents in one of the elections—had this training and wanted that training even in our local hospitals, the ones you mentioned that have about 50 to 100 patients. Because it was successful in Kingston, she thought it should be in all of eastern Ontario. I take it there are only the two pilot projects with Toronto and Hamilton. When it was really pioneered in Kingston, I wonder why Kingston with a teaching hospital was not one of the pilot projects.

Dr. Psutka: Kingston has learned from the pilot project. Since the pilot project, it has improved its basic service. They did not have a lot of necessary things in place at the time. One of the reasons they did not get picked was they did not have a 911 number; they still do not. However, if I am right, they have put in a universal seven-digit number. When you dial the seven-digit number in the Kingston area, you get a central switchboard that will get you police, fire and ambulance. It is not 911, but it is the next thing to it. They have a tiered response now, and a police and fire response.

They are working on a lot of things. They have a superlative emergency medicine training program, probably one of the better ones in Canada, perhaps even in North America. A lot of good things are happening in Kingston and I am sure that has improved health care in that end of the province.

Mr. Wiseman: Is that doctor still there?

Dr. Psutka: Dr. Ghent? I think he still works at Hotel Dieu Hospital. He has become very vocal on a national level. He was one of the driving forces behind the no-drinking-and-driving campaign.

Mr. Turner: I would like to thank you for your presentation this morning. It was very helpful. I think you have answered some of my concerns. I come from a smaller community somewhat similar in size to Kingston. What provisions, if any, have been made for, or is there any advantage to having, a paramedic team in a community of that size?

Dr. Psutka: Where are you from, sir?

Mr. Turner: Peterborough.

Dr. Psutka: Definitely. Peterborough is at the stage where, like Kingston, there is an advantage to having some of these modalities available. I think Peterborough now is serviced by two emergency departments, and I know there is always a little fun there.

Mr. Turner: Yes, there is.

Dr. Psutka: I think there is a dialogue going on as to which of them might be the base hospital. They have been working with the basic ambulance system and there have been a lot of improvements. The biggest concern I hear from the physicians there is that they are very concerned about trauma. They deal with people who are 50, 60 and 70 miles away.

Peterborough is a receiving centre for a large number of smaller communities. They see themselves as serving a role not only to control the ambulances within Peterborough but, once

central despatch is fully implemented, to be able to communicate for maybe 70 or 80 miles around and begin to impact with the crews at the scene and direct the care that way.

There is definitely a role for Peterborough and for an improvement in care.

Mr. Turner: That has led to another problem. I hear from various physicians who describe it as a regional health centre. In their view, to a large degree it is not performing that role. Are any steps being taken to recognize that or to provide them with the services to perform that function?

Dr. Psutka: When it gets down to what the institutions are, that is not an assistant deputy minister's area. As far as trauma is concerned, I see Peterborough being probably a level 2 trauma receiving centre. When we break out these levels, the areas around there would definitely relate to Peterborough for their major trauma. I do not think Peterborough has a neurosurgeon.

Mr. Turner: No.

Dr. Psutka: That is a problem because 50 per cent of trauma is head injuries, but it can pretty well handle most other things and is doing well at that.

One thing we are looking at is improving the movement of patients between hospitals. That is all part of the program. I find that a lot of people talk about it, but when it comes down to the commitment—you look at Peterborough or any of these smaller towns and there are often enough people to make one of the facilities work really well, but we attempt to make two or three work and that sometimes spreads people a bit thin.

Mr. Turner: Is it fair to ask what progress is being made? Is there any timing?

Dr. Psutka: I suggest they are well on their way with their planning. They have sent in a report on the proposal for Peterborough. I received it a few weeks ago. Once they get a copy of this and if we get approval—I will leave it at that—I think something definitely will happen.

Mr. McKessock: Obviously, there is a big cost to the type of facility we just watched. Is it all covered under the Ontario health insurance plan?

11:30 a.m.

Dr. Psutka: Let us me put it this way: When you looked at that video, you saw the 911, the fire department and the police, which are a municipal responsibility, or regional responsibility if it is a regional police department. The ambulance system, of course, is covered under OHIP and the paramedics are also under OHIP.

We are trying to build a system at a reasonable cost. In other words, the police and fire departments are there anyway. You are paying for them and we are augmenting the utilization of them. There has been some concern about fire departments in the smaller communities, especially volunteer fire departments. They are getting involved with some of this, as far as extrication and trauma resuscitation are concerned, and recently they have mounted a lobby to try to achieve funding from the Ministry of Health for some of these things. Which ministry is responsible? I think the Solicitor General is responsible for fire departments and we are having dialogue with him.

Going back to your question, we are looking at an ambulance system in our province that evolved to respond to emergencies. But something has happened. If you consider the calls we make, there is a certain percentage of emergency calls, but we do a lot of interhospital transportation and routine movement of patients as well.

On the other hand, we are evolving towards what would appear to be a tiered ambulance system. In other words, we need a way of moving people between nursing homes and hospitals although it may not be a true ambulance. We probably need an ambulance response system for emergencies, and in those communities where there is need for a paramedic team, we probably can have paramedic teams. I would suggest that the basic ambulance system in a lot of our smaller communities can be upgraded to include two or three of the modalities we talked about, at minimal cost.

The training can be done locally. There should not be too much additional expense. If a crew is doing an intravenous, I think they should be given some notation on their pay, but it does not take them up into another massive job classification with a lot of cost. I think there is an awareness in the province that paramedics are important but are not superpeople. We are trying to build on to the system we have, and the costs so far have not been all that bad.

We have spent money on the pilot—there is no denying that—because we have had to develop things we did not have before. But the pilot was put together in such a way that the training modules, etc., are now available and can be utilized across the province.

We feel the training should be done locally. If you are unable to train people locally, I do not know how you are ever going to manage them. I also do not think it is warranted to bring people from Kingston or Peterborough to Toronto to

show them how it is done in the big city and then send them back to a small community where none of the same things are available because of the size of the community.

We consider the training should be done locally, that it could be done during people's hours off work, and that the system can be added on in that way. A lot of this can be done at a reasonable cost without getting carried away. Some other provinces have gone the other route. Alberta, for example, now has two training institutes, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. They train approximately 180 paramedics each year and they literally do not have any place to send them. It is out of control.

In British Columbia, the government has a training institute and teaches everything. In other words, a crown corporation in British Columbia runs the total ambulance system from training right up to paramedics; that is another approach. In this province, we are relying on a different system and it seems to work reasonably well.

Mr. Wiseman: I missed what you said about whether they are paid any more or not.

Dr. Psutka: Yes, one of our recommendations has to do with the pay scale.

Mr. McKessock: I come from the rural part of the province where these new things are not available, which is why I mention the high cost. Perhaps our OHIP premiums should be less or something.

Mr. Wiseman: Yes, the minister should be listening to this.

Mr. McKessock: In rural Ontario the OHIP premiums should perhaps be less because we do not have the opportunity to avail ourselves of these high-cost things that might save us from a heart attack. We in the rural areas are among the 80 per cent who die if we have a heart attack.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I guess the advantage we have is the healthier lifestyle.

Mr. McKessock: That is true.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was explaining to the deputy the nature of the area from which you hail. I mentioned your bailiwick was the great county of Grey—with the exception of Owen Sound and Keppel, I believe—together with a few other places. I was discussing the massive area that had to be covered.

We are still going to have some difficulty covering everybody no matter how you cover it; even with the paramedic service put into those rural areas. The reason the Seattle experience has been successful is—as Dr. Psutka pointed out in

the slides—that they have people able to respond in very close, compact areas; although they do not have people on every corner. That is what really makes a difference.

I am not sure trying to address the OHIP fee schedule is going to change that. However, I think we shall see some advantages in the placement and the operation going on at the Grey-Bruce health centre in Owen Sound, and the attempt by the district health council to co-ordinate the operations of hospitals by doing an overall study there. This is one of the first in the province if I am not mistaken. They are taking a look at co-ordinating services. The Grey-Bruce area probably will have a great advantage in coming to grips with how to best deliver services and to which site people should be transported quickly. There are some good steps being taken in Grey-Bruce. We have not seen them taken in other areas.

Dr. Psutka: There are quite a few of them going on. First, the central dispatch system is now in operation up there. This has linked all the hospitals. I know there has been a little excitement about that. Some people are for it and some people are against it. However, it has definitely improved the response times and the utilization of ambulances.

The physicians from the new hospital in Owen Sound were in the other day. They are looking at becoming a 24-hour covered emergency department. This means there will be physicians available in-house 24 hours a day. This would improve the care in that emergency room. It could also, potentially, become the base hospital position. They could begin to communicate with central dispatch and all the ambulance services in that area. They could begin to find out what is happening out there and move people more effectively in that area.

I think one has to be aware of the problems. I have a relative who practises up there. There are small hospitals which are difficult to man. There are the distances, and snow, and all kinds of things which make it very difficult to practise.

Dr. Harpur from Tobermory was in the other day. He works in that end of the province. He is a great responder. He is linked to the system and goes out to accidents as a physician. He was talking about the volunteers who are working in that area. We have a paper from our ministry management committee on volunteers in the province which is on for tomorrow. We are working to improve the level of care for volunteers by increasing some of the funding to them, improving their training and going out of

our way to make sure they are a definite adjunct to the system.

There are a lot of good things going on. There has been a lot of talk about doing something in the major metropolitan part of Owen Sound itself. It is similar in size to your community. It is happening and a lot of people are talking. I think we will have a uniform system if we can keep them talking in the same planning network.

Mr. McKessock: We appreciate the new hospital we are going to have opening in Owen Sound very shortly. I suppose we are also compensated in the rural areas, in part, by the air ambulance service which serves our area more than the urban parts of the province.

Dr. Psutka: I was going to point that out. This province, unlike many of its sister provinces, has a unique boundary-to-boundary ambulance system. It is not only on land; whether it is volunteers or a hospital, privately or municipally run such as in Metro Toronto. Let us be honest about it. You saw Metro Toronto on the tape. Metro throws in 30 per cent more tax dollars, on top of the money the province provides, to do what you saw there. That is not all provincial money. There is a commitment of municipal tax funds in that system also. A lot of communities say "Phooey".

11:40 a.m.

We do have an across-the-province system. It is unified. We have a system of central dispatching coming on line. It is almost 60 per cent complete. Universal dialoguing and a system of base hospitals are also developing. We have an excellent system. When you look at our cost compared to other provinces, we are definitely doing very well. British Columbia, for example, is the most expensive of all and I cannot say its system is much better, if at all. I do not want to get into that.

Mr. Wiseman: I am not clear on whether you said the trained paramedic people would have to have the basic ambulance training.

Dr. Psutka: Yes, they have to be trained for ambulance work.

Mr. Wiseman: What do they get in pay increases over the regular ambulance attendants?

Dr. Psutka: We are suggesting that pay increases depend upon the types of paramedics that would be developed and the modules that they learn.

Mr. Wiseman: But at what level above the regular ambulance attendants are those who have been trained and are in Toronto and Hamilton?

Dr. Psutka: In Metropolitan Toronto, they are paid about 10 per cent more than the regular attendants. That was just negotiated and they seem to be satisfied.

Mr. Wiseman: I have been away from it for a long time. Could you tell us what that pay is?

Dr. Psutka: The basic ambulance attendant rate for the ministry is \$12.12 an hour, as the minister knows. He has heard that figure to the point of nausea. We have had a series of strikes. In Metro, they are a little higher than the average for the province, mainly because they are represented by the Metropolitan Toronto Civic Employees Union, which includes not only ambulance workers but all kinds of city employees. I am guessing, but it is a little more than \$14 for a basic attendant with the 10 per cent on top of that.

Mr. Wiseman: Do they pay the 30 per cent?

Dr. Psutka: We pay 75 per cent of budgetary items which have been agreed to and they pick up the rest. That is a large amount of dollars they throw in. Their budget this year is over \$30 million.

Mr. Wiseman: Do they do that on salaries as well as equipment?

You showed a machine towards the end of the slides that did something instead of the person.

Dr. Psutka: An automatic defibrillator?

Mr. Wiseman: Yes. You did not mention anything about cost. What is the cost?

Dr. Psutka: That machine is not available in Canada yet. I was given a quote of about \$10,000 to \$15,000. That has not really been finalized. The disposable paddles, you stick one on the front and one on the back, are \$65 a piece. So every time you use them it costs \$130 and you throw them in the garbage can. It is a very expensive device. Dr. Dyer, by the way, is one of the founders of defibrillation. He may want to talk about that.

Medical technology is advancing so rapidly that there are devices coming on the market within the next few years that will probably be implanted into your heart. In other words, if you have triple bypass surgery, an automatic defibrillator device will more than likely be put in your body and left there. That is one of the directions. There are also pacemaker devices that are getting smaller and smaller; they are just adding different chips to them to do different things. So there are all kinds of wild and wonderful things that are happening. Right now, we are looking at the basics.

Hon. Mr. Elston: May I just add that I was down at an emergency exhibition. The thing that overwhelms you when you walk into the room of displays is the multitude of new and wonderful gadgets available which entice people who are providing care and emergency health services. You can take a look at any number of items and they are all very expensive or potentially expensive. The question becomes whether or not they are compatible with the system you are operating and the style of services you are delivering.

I was taken by what I think was called a thumper. I do not know the right name. Somebody who needs cardiopulmonary resuscitation, can be hooked up to this thing and, like a piston, it just keeps on pounding away. The machine could do it for ever or at least until it broke down. One anecdote I was told was about a machine that was left on for a considerable length of time virtually unattended. When we have these automatic devices that are programmed to do their thing, they could go on and on.

I am very conscious of the new strides in technology. At the Ontario Hospital Association convention, they were talking about technology and how to handle it in hospitals. I am also concerned about how we handle new technologies like that defibrillator you saw, whether it is needed or whether we will be susceptible to the marketing influences of the developers of these things. We have to be sure they will be used properly and will be useful. That will be one of our biggest challenges as we put together these systems.

Even with paramedics, we are basically finding a standard number of services will be required to be used by paramedics. When we overdress, we sometimes frustrate the system we put into place. Then we are not as effective. We have to be careful. We want to be able to respond, but we do not want to overdress. We want to use responses people feel they have been trained to use, to make sure our morale stays up, and our equipment and our dollars are used appropriately.

Dr. Psutka: We found that even if somebody is bleeding to death from a trauma, if you stop and do things at the scene, such as start an intravenous, a certain time is involved. If you are four or five minutes from a hospital, if you stop and spend 10 or 15 minutes proceeding to do these things—I am not saying you cannot do them; you can do them—does it really benefit the patient?

In the medical literature, the feeling now is that if you are close to a centre that knows what it is doing, you should literally move the patient and try to do things en route rather than delaying at the scene. In the data I handed out, you will find some numbers. You see our scene times. There is no denying the scene times have gone up with advanced life support. We are spending time at the scene we have to justify. Are we doing something worthwhile there?

That is why I pointed out that if you are having a major haemorrhage, I cannot start enough IVs to keep up with the bleeding. I have to get you to a surgeon. He has to open you up and clamp the bleeding. That is why we are looking at different systems for different localities.

Mr. Wiseman: I would like to ask a question about the blood that is given, I understand from reading the papers that the Canadian Red Cross Society has a program of testing blood for the possibility of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Are we using only blood that has been tested?

Dr. Psutka: We do not use blood on the scene. Paramedics do not carry it. To give blood, you have to type and cross-match it, or you have to use universal donor blood which is in short supply. Therefore, we only use intravenous fluids, such as salt water or sugar water or something along that line. When we replace volume, we are not replacing blood with blood, we are replacing blood with water.

Mr. Wiseman: Where we do, is it all tested?

Mr. Chairman: I have a slightly different agenda, if you do not mind, Doug. Mr. Cooke is not able to be here this afternoon. We might give him the 12 minutes, and carry on this afternoon with this subject. Would that be agreeable to you?

Mr. Wiseman: Yes.

Dr. Psutka: Because this is an emergency question, I will answer. The blood is being screened right across Canada, starting November 1. If one positive test occurs, the Red Cross disposes of that product. I just wanted to clear that one up.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a couple of things. Before I leave at noon, could we have a short discussion on our agenda? Because of some conflicting legislation—the drug legislation—which will interfere with the minister and the critics, we have to talk about what we are going to do next Wednesday.

Could I address a couple of issues to the minister in the next 11.5 minutes? I know we are

not on the mental health vote, but during the next few weeks, could I get a written update from the ministry on exactly what has been done on the Gerstein report? What stage of implementation is it at? What meetings have taken place? Where are we in implementing some of the recommendations? I gather not a lot has happened, and I would like to get a better feeling for what has happened.

11:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will provide you with an update.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister may not have the answers on the Doctors Hospital, but I would like to get an idea of where the ministry stands on the chronic care beds for that hospital. I would like to understand what involvement the private sector has in the commercial section of the proposed new building.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you want a rundown on that now? Mr. Reid probably knows more details about that. Phase 1 is privately oriented.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Phase 1 is the commercial development?

Mr. Reid: Phase 1 is the commercial development on College Street replacing current commercial development. It consists of doctors' offices, pharmacies, storefront—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What level of government subsidy has been involved in feasibility studies, startup costs, anything to do with the commercial section? How much government money has been involved?

Mr. Reid: Not a dime. We are not involved in the financing of phase 1.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Not even in feasibility studies?

Mr. Reid: No.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What involvement does Crownx have with the commercial development?

Mr. Reid: To the best of my knowledge, none.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Can you explain how it is being funded?

Mr. Reid: There is a commercial developer who is going to develop the property. In return for a 60-year lease on the land, the developer will be making a contribution of X million dollars to the hospital for its fund-raising campaign for phases 2 and 3 of the hospital. The property will then be rented out to tenants.

All the doctors currently in the Raxlen Clinic will move into the new building and pay rent as tenants in the development. The hospital will not

put any money into it. It will simply lease the land. In return for that, they will receive a sum of money from the developer and one third participation in the profits.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Who is the developer?

Mr. Reid: As far as I am aware, the developer has not been chosen. They are down to a short list of two.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You do not know whether Crownx is one?

Mr. Reid: I do not know either of the names.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In terms of chronic care beds, obviously of great concern to the people in the community, the size of the operation is being dramatically increased. The physical structure is of concern to people in the neighbourhood. I gather that will go to the Ontario Municipal Board. I am wondering what position the minister has taken about whether there is the need.

Second, I wonder whether this would not be an opportunity for the ministry to head in a different direction to see whether the large amounts of capital, and equally important, the large amounts of operating costs that will have to be allocated to these beds, would not be better spent in community programs. Have you reviewed the Doctors Hospital proposal?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have taken a look at it. I met with some of the community people and I have done a tour of the current facility. I met with some of the board members and took a look at their project and at what was being planned. In fairness to the current plan, a number of community-based projects are being planned and are acting as outreach from the Doctors Hospital. They have been very successful in some of their publicity with respect to bringing in those communities to work with the projected expansion of the facility.

We are analysing what is being offered to the community in addition to the physical facilities and looking at what is required there. I know there is a question about the style of the building. If I am not mistaken, they have already examined some of the options available in placing the project aesthetically in that community. There is still a considerable question between the residents and the hospital about the size of the chronic care facility. Philosophically, the question that has been raised with me by those community groups is whether the style of accommodating chronic care patients in that plan is a most appropriate opportunity for us.

So the answer is yes. I have done a lot of review to try to find out where each group is coming from and the interests they all have. We are exploring various options at this point. I have spoken with Ross McClellan who is very interested in the development of the area because his communities are certainly being served by some of the projects that are to be sponsored under the new facility. We are examining options.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Maybe you could be a little more specific as to what options you are examining. Is it still possible that the ministry will head in a different direction, that is, not a large expansion with a chronic care facility, but instead a base?

Everybody agrees that the hospital itself needs to be replaced. The argument is whether we need to have a facility of this size, whether we need to add a major chronic care component to the hospital and whether that is the best way to serve our senior citizens. Is that one of the options you are looking at, whether we even need the chronic care additional beds in that hospital?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The question of chronic care beds in the Toronto area has been addressed by the district health council, which has established a need for some beds. I am reminded that we have an OMB hearing, which will probably be working on some of the items surrounding the development of this area—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They will not be looking at the health care aspects.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not want to make comments that might impact on that hearing.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They are not going to be looking at the health care aspects; they are going to be looking at the planning aspects and the impact on the community.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think they will be looking at whatever is being planned and the options available forever. Comments expressed by me in a very public forum, as minister, might tend to influence a decision. We are very interested in the project as presented and we are examining it closely with members who are closely associated with the communities involved in the program. I cannot be more specific than that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It seemed to me that community planning is one aspect; health care planning is another. I am not asking about the community planning aspect, but about the health care planning aspect. You have not been specific at all. Because of your concern with the OMB, it

seems to me you could comment on whether this is good health care planning.

Mr. Chairman: That is the problem with a minister who is a lawyer.

Hon. Mr. Elston: One of the good things about a minister who is a lawyer is that I am so vitally aware of how hearings take place and the types of things that can work their way into OMB hearings, and other hearings of a public nature that surround these types of developments, that I would rather be very careful than be the person responsible for causing disruption in the hearing process. I am very careful.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: As I said in my opening statement, this is one project where the ministry could give a signal to the health care community that there is a different direction that this government is going to follow. It would be a move that would be accepted and applauded by a large number of people—not only in Toronto, but also by a large number of people involved in the health care system—if you used this as an example of a different direction of community supports and took the money you would have to allocate to this hospital for operating grants and put it into community support grants. That would be very useful and lead the way in directions other communities might want to follow.

12 noon

Knowing you are not going to be any more specific than you have been, and since my time is running out, I just want to ask one policy question on the report that was done on registered nursing assistants by Woods Gordon. Some of the recommendations are directed at the ministry itself.

It would be difficult to run through all the recommendations that are directed at you in this short time. Perhaps I can do that at a future meeting of this committee and I can get you to run through the Woods Gordon report the next time we meet. Four or five of the 13 recommendations are directed at the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Four.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to get your response to those recommendations, if there has been one.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They are certainly under review. I can tell you that. An advisory committee on nursing has been established. There are four specific recommendations currently under review.

I have met often with members of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. They have expressed their strong concerns. We have

had a quick runthrough of the Woods Gordon report on the RNAO and are quite familiar with the recommendations. I will be pleased to run through them with you at some point.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I wanted to talk about assistive devices, but we have lots of hours left.

Mr. Chairman: The public hearings on the two drug bills start on Monday in the standing committee on social development. That committee normally meets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This obviously means there is a conflict for this committee. I assume from a chat I had with the minister, and I also spoke with Mr. Wiseman, that the minister wants to proceed with the drug bills.

I thought it might be possible for us to do estimates next week and finish them, but I do not think that is the direction in which Mr. Wiseman wants to go. I had a quick consultation with some people in my own caucus because of ongoing negotiations about estimate hours and other things that spin out from estimate hours and I am advised that it would probably be inappropriate to aim at ending estimates next week.

I suggest we should not do estimates next week and whatever the next ministry is should proceed. We should be doing the drug bills on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in another committee and we will have to get back to estimates in January.

Mr. Chairman: I do not see anything the matter with suggesting that, but it may not work. We have to wait until we get advice from the House leaders on the order of business for next week. I do not believe that has been done yet.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I go to House leaders' meetings every week. The government and opposition House leaders' responses, whenever we discuss committees, are always that committees can decide on their own. Today is the day we are meeting. We are going to create difficulties in planning for both this committee and the social development committee if we do not decide today. I cannot be in two places.

Mr. Chairman: I understand that and I would like to be accommodating. Rather than have you go to the House leaders' meeting and say that the committee has decided to do something, why do we not let the House leaders decide what should be done? Then we will try to agree.

You and I and someone from the Liberal caucus have decided before what we would do after the fact rather than before the fact. I think we are obliged to follow the estimates in the order they are printed and to do them on the assigned

days. I will be accommodating, but I do not think we should do it before the fact.

Mr. Turner: How soon can we get a response to that?

Mr. Chairman: A response to what?

Mr. Turner: To the suggestion made by Mr. Cooke.

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect, Mr. Cooke is telling us how he thinks the order of events may take place. I am not entirely sure that is the order in which they will take place.

Mr. Turner: I do not want to defend Mr. Cooke, but I do not think that was the intent. I think he was making a suggestion to accommodate the ministry and its interests.

Mr. Chairman: To my knowledge, it has not been decided that the social development committee will meet Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. That is why I do not want to get caught.

Mr. Turner: How soon can we expect a response?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The committee clerk has already started organizing next week for the drug legislation with a ministry presentation on Monday and presentations from interest groups starting the next day. So the social development committee is proceeding with the two drug bills.

Mr. Chairman: Are they proceeding with advertising?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The steering committee met yesterday and has started planning next week. Whether they have decided to advertise, I am not sure, but next week is planned and that is why I thought we had better decide something here today.

Mr. Chairman: We will see what we can find out over lunch. Are you prepared to propose something, if I am wrong?

Mr. Poirier: If you want to look at it at lunchtime, we might be able to decide this afternoon from what you find out.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I will not be here this afternoon.

Mr. Poirier: You can leave a message.

Mr. Turner: We will be here.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I will rely on Mr. Turner to protect my interests.

Mr. Chairman: We will do everything to avoid the conflicts you are concerned about, if all these things are going to happen.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We could vote estimates for the Ministry of Health this afternoon and that would avoid all kinds of conflict.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Except I think the two opposition parties would have difficulty with that. I want at some point before we finish estimates to have at least a couple of hours on nursing homes. It has not worked out that way so far. Part of it has been my own problem with not being able to be here on a couple of afternoons, so it is not the committee's fault.

Mr. Chairman: We will recess until 2 p.m. If your party is not represented, do we have permission to proceed?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Yes. I believe Mr. Pouliot will be here.

The committee recessed at 12:08 p.m.

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From the Ministry of Health:

Psutka, Dr. D. A., Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Services, Laboratories and Drug Programs

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No. G-7

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Health

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, December 4, 1985
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, December 4, 1985

The committee resumed at 2:01 p.m. in room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

Mr. Chairman: Do we have any questions from anyone at this point?

Mr. Bernier: May I first express my appreciation to you and the committee for allowing me the opportunity to raise a couple of issues about which I have some serious concern. I think I should first direct my comments to the travel plan that the minister announced back on November 25.

While I am most pleased that the program is in place and funds are available, I would have to say to the minister that there is considerable disappointment in northern Ontario because your statement did not clarify, in total, the program as we now see it rolling out.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Did not clarify what?

Mr. Bernier: Did not clarify the cost to the individual. Your statement left out a lot of the detail on the initial program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes; okay.

Mr. Bernier: Now the people are starting to realize there is a \$75 hooker to the travel plan, which was not mentioned in your statement and which is not going over well in northern Ontario. They are saying this is deceitful. It is wrong to make a grandiose—

Hon. Mr. Elston: To be precise, you are saying it is deceitful, are you?

Mr. Bernier: No; they are telling me that and I am just passing on what they are telling me. They looked forward to a program that would be all-encompassing. They looked for more clarity with respect to accommodation at one end, because people do go to Thunder Bay and to Winnipeg for treatment and they have to put up in a hotel for three or four days. There is no mention of that. My colleague Mr. Pope mentioned the retroactivity, which I gather has been tossed out.

The part that is really bothering the people in my riding, particularly the 20,000 people in the Kenora area, is that the 300-kilometre radius within which you will operate excludes 20,000 people in the Kenora area by 40 kilometres. I have spoken to the doctors in the Kenora area and

they are just flabbergasted that the ministry would not have recognized that. The people who use outside medical specialists in the Kenora area always go to Winnipeg; very few go to Thunder Bay. The doctors are telling me, "If the ministry feels that way about it we will send our patients to Toronto." Just think of the cost then.

I would appeal to the minister, in his review of this program, to consider bringing the Kenora, Keewatin, Jaffray, Melick, Minaki and Sioux Narrows areas into this plan. It is wrong they should be excluded because of an arbitrary figure that has been arrived at. I make that appeal to you on behalf of the 20,000 citizens in that particular part of the north.

I do not think it applies anywhere else, although I am not sure. I do not know what it does in the Timmins area; I have not looked at that. However, it is a serious issue in the Kenora area. I am sure you are going to be confronted with letters expressing concerns about it.

There is a tremendous saving to be made by the ministry if that regulation is changed to allow, say, 200 kilometres or to make a special exception for the 20,000 people living in the immediate Kenora area to use the excellent facilities of Manitoba. There is the Health Sciences Centre, and I am pleased that my own nephew practises there. I wish he would practise in northern Ontario, but he looks after many northern Ontario residents from his vantage point in the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

I make that plea on behalf of those people living in that area, and I would like a response from the minister if he could give me one at this time. Then I have one more issue to raise.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You want me to respond to that now?

Mr. Bernier: Yes, if you would.

Hon. Mr. Elston: To be precise, our program is much more comprehensive than anything you had anticipated. In fact, your approvals for providing money to the Ministry of Northern Affairs would probably not have addressed anywhere near the significant number of families that we have.

Mr. Bernier: We recommended it just for a very short term.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was not approved in any other place. You did not even have in place any agreements with respect to designated hospitals in the north.

Our program is operated to provide a significant amount of transportation for people out of northern Ontario to facilities outside northern Ontario, but significant as well is the fact that a number of those who have to travel will be accommodated at facilities in northern Ontario.

We are always looking at ways to improve the system; there is no question about that. However, I want to be able to respond to the large number of people who did not have access to that travel before. If you are suggesting in addition that your mechanism, the program that was unveiled for the first time publicly by Mr. Pope here last week, did not have arbitrary figures for determining where or how you responded, I think you are wrong.

In addition, our levels of support for northern travel are significantly higher. You had a sliding scale on the return visits, a significant departure from even the announced program that the Premier of the day, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), made in Rainy River. We have made significant improvements on that. We are supporting, at the same level, every follow-up visit by people to specialists or to designated facilities.

Although I recognize your role in operating as a member and expressing the local concerns, our program is a significant improvement on what was initially laid out by your Premier and on what was then set forth here for the first time by Mr. Pope last Wednesday.

I will take into consideration some of the concerns you provided for me, but I want to let everyone know that I want to be sure this program is implemented well and covers the north as well as we can to help meet the needs of those people who did not have access to travel before.

You may have felt, though I have never seen any evidence, that you were going to be covering accommodation. I can find nothing anywhere that predates our discussions on northern travel that indicated any intention on your part. If you are indicating to the people of northern Ontario that your program included accommodation, I have no indication of that anywhere, nor of an approval of it anywhere.

Mr. Bernier: There was. That was part of the package, I can assure you. It was part of that discussion.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It must have been something Mr. Pope forgot to announce last week.

Mr. Bernier: I do not want to get into a debate. We are not here to debate what our program was to be.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, I think "was to be" is a very good way to describe it.

Mr. Bernier: We are here to improve upon a program that you announced with not total clarity.

Mr. Chairman: It is very difficult for Hansard to report all this when two people are speaking at once. If you do not behave, I will have Mr. Poirier ask a question that nobody will understand.

Mr. Pouliot: I want to assure you that many of us will, and we will endeavour to translate for your benefit.

Mr. Chairman: We have Mr. Villeneuve, too.

Mr. Villeneuve: We have had 200 years of exposure to this kind of attitude—

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: No, it is not an attitude.

Mr. Bernier: If I may follow up, the minister said he would review it. There are 20,000 people in my riding anxiously awaiting your comments today. We have heard from this government that it is sympathetic, that this is a real concern, that it is going to review it. This is all we have heard for five months on a number of programs across northern Ontario.

I do not want to go through it again with this particular program. I would like to have something more concrete. You will review it; you will have an answer for us in three to four weeks. It is not that big an issue from an administrative point of view.

Can you give us firmer assurances that this will be taken into consideration and that we will have an answer before Christmas?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have indicated before that we will consider the problems of implementing the program. That is what we will be doing now: working to implement this program with the people of northern Ontario.

Mr. Bernier: You are not giving me a time frame? You are not giving any indication that some sympathetic consideration will be given to this particular problem and that you will report back to us in three weeks? You cannot give us that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot report back to you in three weeks or whatever. I said I will be

reviewing it as we bring this program into operation and looking at how it is operating in northern Ontario. That is what the ministry has to do when any program is in place. We are looking at that as we move to expand the services available in northern Ontario.

Mr. Bernier: I take it, then, that you are turning your back on 20,000 people, but you do not want to say it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is not true.

Mr. Bernier: That is what I am reading into your remarks. I will report that back to the people in Kenora riding.

Now I want to read into the record a letter that was directed to Douglas Piercy of the Ministry of Health. He is a project manager for the institutional planning branch. It is directed to him by the Lake of the Woods District Hospital and signed by Robert K. Muir, the executive director. Don J. Sweeney is chairman of the board. It is dated October 28, 1985, and reads as follows:

"Earlier this year our hospital informed you that, after a regular inspection, we learned that our incinerator stack posed a potential fire and gas leakage hazard. We wrote to you requesting financial assistance based on the emergency nature of the situation. You wrote back on January 21, 1985, informing us that we would have to use our own funds.

"Lake of the Woods District Hospital is, I believe, one of the few hospitals in northwestern Ontario with an incinerator which meets standards. In light of the spills bill and, in particular, the regulation which puts the onus on hospitals to clean up spills and the confusion over the definition of waste, we believe it is very important to have a properly functioning incinerator in our area. It is even more important when you consider the facts that there are few incinerators in our area and very few, if any, licensed haulers.

"While your initial response was to use our own funds, we believe that, because of the new legislation, the ministry has an obligation to share in the funding of the project, particularly in an isolated northern community. The funds we do have are dedicated to equipment purchases and to paying over half the cost of our proposed expansion/renovation project. This latter contribution is well in excess of contributions made by many northern communities.

"While we have been told to use our own funds, we understand that other hospitals in the Kenora-Rainy River district which have surpluses have received funds from the ministry for

emergency projects such as window replacements.

"I am attaching a copy of our engineer's report, the tender specifications and the accepted bid. I would appreciate very much your review of this matter and your response as soon as possible."

I received a copy of that letter and also sent a letter to the Minister of Health dated November 22, 1985. It reads:

"Attached is a copy of a letter I received from Mr. Robert Muir, executive director of the Lake of the Woods District Hospital in Kenora, with respect to the funding to correct the hazards created by their incinerator.

"I do want to advise you of my strong support for this project as I do feel the request is reasonable. \$64,000 is substantial and, as has been pointed out, the ministry has supported similar requests for other hospitals.

"I would be most appreciative of your utmost consideration. Any assistance you can provide would be most welcome."

I have not had a response to that letter yet, but yesterday the Lake of the Woods District Hospital board came to Toronto and met with Mr. Piercy. Is Mr. Piercy here?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We did not anticipate which areas we were going to cover this afternoon, so not all our staff members are available.

Mr. Bernier: I see. It does not matter. I want to bring it to your attention.

They came down for a number of other reasons, but they discussed this request for \$65,000 for an incinerator, which would be a normal request for funding. They were informed that there was a good possibility the ministry would look after this capital funding in an emergency situation.

They arrived here yesterday and were immediately told that because a certain letter had been directed to you, there would be no capital funding for the Lake of the Woods District Hospital board. That letter was from me to you, and because I wrote a letter supporting their request, there was no way the ministry was going to support their request. It shocks me that this would come from a civil servant. It had to come from somebody.

Hon. Mr. Elston: If that was relayed to the board, I will certainly look into it, because it has nothing to do with anything that came out of my office. I accept requests from MPPs without any question. The support of MPPs in all areas of health—obviously funding and so on—has to be

reviewed and thoroughly analysed. There is no question that I like the involvement of local MPPs. I have always striven to get that involvement.

Mr. Bernier: It is nice to hear that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will ask some questions about the event and I will report back to the honourable member.

Mr. Bernier: Thank you very much. That is all I had to bring up at this point.

Mr. Pouliot: I would like to make a few brief comments regarding the subject matter that was raised so rightly by my colleague and friend from the riding of Kenora, the second-largest riding in Ontario. I have the distinction of representing the largest riding in Ontario.

To be more specific, I am talking about the northern Ontario travel allowance, which you announced in the House last week. With due respect, when we are talking of 114,000 square miles, we can relate readily to any programs, any incentives and any help. Heaven knows, we are very deserving in the riding of Lake Nipigon. Incidentally, I would point out for your benefit that as we are sitting here today exchanging views, we are closer to Miami, Florida, than to some parts of the riding of Lake Nipigon—namely, Fort Severn, which is the northernmost community in the riding.

So it was with a great deal of anxiety and with some hope that we awaited and welcomed your announcement. You have done well. You believe in the program. You believe in providing an essential service. I am not going to give the government too much praise for half a program, but I think the people in the riding of Lake Nipigon would join with me in giving you half praise. You have to carry half the praise, Mr. Elston, by virtue and by reason of your role.

Unfortunately, you also have to carry half of the guilt by virtue of the same role. You will readily recognize that, although the program is embryonic—it is a start, it is a step in the right direction and it does recognize that there is a need—inequities, ironies and anomalies are built into it. We are talking about 28 per cent of the overall area of Ontario; one could say that this is the very reason for which the program was designed and will be implemented. Yet ironically, it bypasses fully 60 to 70 per cent of the people in those isolated areas.

In other words, if we were to couple the ridings of Kenora and Lake Nipigon, we are talking about 42 or 43 per cent of the overall area of Ontario. Fully 60 per cent of the people in that area will not have access to the benefits of the

program or of the public purse because of anomalies, because of inequities and because of the geography that is involved.

We welcome the program, but we have to say with all the sincerity at our command that those issues are of grave consequence. What we are creating here is a double standard—nothing short of that. If this is allowed to continue, then we can start looking at the morality of the program.

2:20 p.m.

For instance, if I live in Manitouwadge, 250 miles away, and if the local dentist recommends that I get a root canal done in Thunder Bay—I am not an alarmist and I do not choose to exaggerate—I could be covered by the program.

Yet, if I live in the sister municipality of Geraldton and am the victim of a heart attack, the irony is that I will be covered for a root canal and yet I will be deprived of essential service for a heart attack.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, that is not right, because that is an emergency situation. Those have always been dealt with in an emergency manner. Transportation from Geraldton District Hospital to another centre is fully covered.

Mr. Pouliot: You are talking about the air ambulance.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is an emergency situation and that is and always has been addressed.

Mr. Pouliot: The point is well taken. I will be more meticulous when I draw parallels or analogies.

The fact remains that for the purposes of the plan, and the plan is designed for those people in remote areas, the majority of the people in Lake Nipigon and in the riding of Kenora are not covered. Faced with those statistics, you surely must be somewhat—I am not saying confused, Mr. Minister, but a little appalled and shocked and ready to address this matter. What is being done by your program is morally right, but we are saying that it does not suffice. It does not reach the people for whom it is intended.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The program is there to provide some assistance to people who have to travel substantial distances. That is the point we started at. We are working on implementing the program and I suspect that you, like your friend the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier), are suggesting that we reduce the area.

Mr. Pouliot: Go the other way around and introduce a minimum mileage, and accept anything above that minimum mileage, providing it fits the requirement of your program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is what we have. We have a 300 kilometre travel limit.

Mr. Haggerty: Is that one way or two?

Mr. Pouliot: No, in terms of anything exceeding or surpassing certain kilometres.

Hon. Mr. Elston: How do you mean?

Mr. Pouliot: Reduce it to 15 in order to control abuses or potential abuses.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I guess I do not understand you because what we have said is that anybody who has to travel more than 300 kilometres will be covered, and that is under 200 miles. I am confused as to what—

Mr. Bernier: It excludes so many people in northern Ontario, those in the areas that the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) represents and I represent.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is less than the 200 mile limit that your program set out. In fact, we take in far more people under our program than the one announced here last week by—

Mr. Bernier: I am not arguing about our program, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Can I ask Mr. Pouliot something? We set it at 300 kilometres; are you telling me that I should set it at 250 or 200 or whatever? Is that what you are arguing?

Mr. Pouliot: Adjust it downward, significantly.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Okay; the 300 kilometres is where we have started for implementing the program.

Mr. Pouliot: It is not realistic. For instance, for someone who must use the back roads. You are concerned about the paving down south here or the soft shoulders; up north we are concerned about the sections between the soft shoulders. We are still at that level in many areas. You are talking about four or five or five and a half hours, and yet, we are not covered.

You are talking about an overnight stay. We are not asking for that in the program. What we are saying, with due respect, is will you make the commitment to address the 300 kilometres which, in our minds, is far too much? Nothing more, but nothing short of that. That is what we are saying. We want to draw this to your attention.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It has been drawn to my attention.

Mr. Hennessy: From what the two previous speakers have said, and as I live in that area, I still come back to the problem. You are looking at accommodation, as Mr. Bernier has mentioned.

Mr. Bernier has rightfully asked you to try and institute the program as soon as possible. I think Mr. Pouliot is in the same position and so am I; they more so than I.

If you are coming from Kenora or Marathon or Armstrong, which is quite a way, you can get caught in Thunder Bay by weather conditions. We have two and half feet of snow up our way. It is a lot different up there; this is like Florida. If you get stuck overnight for accommodation, you have to take a motel that is close to the airport. They can be quite costly. People just do not have that kind of money for meals and things. If you bring in the program at some time in the spring—I imagine after January—would it not be possible to make it retroactive?

With the program that is now in effect, if a person makes the trip he may have to cough up \$150 or \$200 extra. In our area there are many people who are live on very low incomes—not fixed—and they have a difficult time getting by. If they happen to get caught in Thunder Bay because of a snowstorm, or the last plane leaves at 7:10 p.m., they would have to stay overnight to wait for the next one in the morning at 7 a.m. or 7:25 a.m.

It is not the same, Mr. Minister. Maybe if you lived up in that area, you would realize. I used to work for a company and they would phone me from Toronto and say, "Could you go up there this afternoon and deliver this package?" That was to Kenora. That shows you how much they know about what the north is like. It is about 325 kilometres. "Could you go up this afternoon? Maybe you would be back by supertime and finish the rest of your work."

Some of you have been up there, but the majority of people do not realize it is a different world. The weather conditions are very changeable. You can go 50 miles and 50 miles later on you are into a blinding snowstorm and can be caught between two towns. It is very difficult.

Mr. Pouliot and Mr. Bernier have very large areas. For people on fixed incomes who may try and get down in a 1979 Ford, or something like that, and something happens to it and it gets stuck, the accommodations are not there. It is different in Toronto; you are so close to everything; it is not as bad. But up there it is at least 25 or 50 miles from one area to another.

I ask you to reconsider. If you put the new program in effect now, these changes that Mr. Pouliot and Mr. Bernier have asked for should be made retroactive to the time this program was instituted. It could be given to some people who

may get caught over Christmas and can ill afford the money.

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to accommodation, we would have to make an overall policy decision that everybody in the province who travelled for health care would have an allowance for accommodation. We do not provide accommodation, even for people in my area where snowstorms are every bit as bad as they are in northern Ontario. Within seven or eight miles of where I live, you can be stopped between two towns.

It is a situation where we as a government have not made a decision to pay for everybody's overnight accommodation. We have not. This policy is designed to provide the travel for people to get from their position to a specialist or an area that has hospital services available to deal with a medically necessary condition. We are meeting that need. That is what this program is designed to do.

Mr. Hennessy: With all due respect, unless I have lost my reading ability, the bill was for northwestern Ontario. The bill was not for southwestern Ontario or eastern Ontario; it was for northwestern Ontario. I am talking about that area. If you want to go ahead and do something for down here, that is your prerogative and that of the members down here.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am talking about the issue of accommodation.

Mr. Hennessy: I defy you to start out from Armstrong, in Mr. Bernier's riding, and try to get down to Thunder Bay in a day if you do not get the plane. If you come by car, it is quite a ride and therefore it takes you most of the day to get there. If you come from a small area which has no paved roads—and there are still gravel and dirt roads up there and backroads, as these members have said—it takes you a long time to get there.

You are not going down to the Eaton Centre where you jump on the TTC and get down there and there is no problem. If you live up in that area, you know what the situation is. The two members are right in what they are saying. Accommodation is needed. It should be included and retroactive.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Any comment from the minister?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have heard what Mr. Hennessy has had to say.

Mr. Hennessy: He does not hear very well. That is the trouble. I have a hunch that he may be deaf on one side. I am not sure which one.

Mr. Villeneuve: I hope I have his good ear.

Mr. Chairman: Excuse me, Mr. Villeneuve. Is this on the same subject or are you changing subjects?

Mr. Villeneuve: I guess maybe I am not going to northern situations, but I am going to eastern situations which—

Mr. Chairman: On the same topic?

Mr. Villeneuve: No, not on transportation but on—

Mr. Chairman: Can we just set you back for a minute then?

Mr. Bernier: Would the minister outline to the committee—and I am sorry if he has done this already and I apologize for coming in late—would he explain and run through step by step what a patient has to do to collect these funds in excess of the \$75 hooker you slipped in there? What is the sequence of events? Will you take us through a patient travel situation?

Hon. Mr. Elston: When the patient goes to visit the doctor, of course he is going to get an application form. If there is going to be referral out, the physician will sign it. The application will be taken with the patient to the specialist who will also endorse the application, and then it will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health. That is basically the way it will operate.

Mr. Bernier: What will be the turnaround time for the payment?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are not sure. Ron LeNeveu is with the finance and health insurance branch of the ministry. Do you have an indication as to turnaround time, Ron?

Mr. LeNeveu: I would think that the Ontario health insurance plan can process the paperwork within about two weeks after receipt.

Mr. Bernier: Two weeks?

Mr. LeNeveu: Yes.

Mr. Bernier: I will hold you to that.

The minister keeps raising our plan which we were discussing last spring. We had a much more easily administrative approach to the situation. In other words, when the patient in Sioux Lookout was referred to the specialist in Thunder Bay, he would go to the hospital administrator and be funded in advance. That was because one of the problems in northern Ontario was for the patient to put out that \$300 or \$400 to get down to Thunder Bay.

Under your plan he has to put that money out, file an application, and wait. Ron LeNeveu says two weeks, I would say six before the money comes back. Under our plan the bill would have

been paid in advance and would be looked after through OHIP. It was much more manageable. It was a plan that answered the needs of many people who do not have the funds—

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will agree of course that with inpatients, their costs still are paid.

Mr. Bernier: From hospital to hospital, I realize that, yes. The other system which we talked about and we are talking about—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Despite the fact that we are not here to debate your system as you reminded me before—

Mr. Bernier: You do not like anything about my system.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, no. You do not like me talking about your system. You said we are not here to talk about the deficiencies of your system. To be quite honest, your system was not there. That is the deficiency in that so-called system. It varies considerably from what your Premier of the day announced in Rainy River in April—

Mr. Bernier: The money was there. The \$1.5 million was there and it would have been in place—

Mr. Hennessy: We would have been there.

Mr. Bernier: That is exactly right.

I would ask the minister to consider prepayment. I know the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) would agree with me.

Hon. Mr. Elston: May I also comment on your suggestion that the money was there in advance? I understand that under your program the money was to be paid to the patient when he was discharged from the teaching hospital. That is a little different than what you just told us.

Mr. Bernier: No, we had planned to pay it in advance.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Listen, you guys had plans to do everything.

Mr. Bernier: We had plans. We had it well thought out. The present deputy minister was not involved in the discussion, I might say.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have seen some of the plans you guys have had, and they have been great for the last 10 or 15 years, and they are absolutely great plans. I can just comment on that.

Dr. Bill Dalziel, who works with geriatrics in Ottawa, indicated to me that he attended one of the best programs anywhere in the world at his Alma Mater in the United States. He said they had the best program on paper, but they did not have a single worthwhile program that was really in operation. He is up here putting programs in

operation and feeling very good about it. As a government, we are here putting programs into operation. Your ideas may have been very good indeed, but they certainly were not very tangible.

Mr. Bernier: The track record of our government is very well-known across northern Ontario. What did we bring back? Eight or nine members? The Liberal party brought back one member, and that was by accident.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Dyer?

Dr. Dyer: Mr. Chairman, I want to apologize to Mr. Bernier because I was not here during those negotiations. I was in Kenora cleaning up your polychlorinated biphenyls spill.

Mr. Chairman: Where did that truck come from?

Mr. Pouliot: I do not want to tax your patience too much and I realize that the official adversary system is still alive and well. It does not concern the members of the New Democratic Party or, more specifically, the party with a social conscience. This is why I chose to come back to this. Suffice to say, by means of a reminder, that we are the reason why you are there.

Interjections.

Mr. Bernier: Who is in charge here?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Pouliot: This is for the edification or the benefit of the Minister of Health who has been so busy that maybe his geography, with respect, has from time to time, left him.

There are only so many hours in a day, and he is a very dedicated person. So for his benefit perhaps he and I can spend a moment or two; leaving Manitouwadge, always in the riding of Lake Nipigon, going through two or three different weather patterns—given some unfortunate circumstances—then 600 miles further, we reach the community of Pickle Lake. We will use Pickle Lake as a base and begin flying up north, again in the riding of Lake Nipigon.

I live 720 miles from Toronto, in Manitouwadge, an Ojibway legend, cave of the great spirit. The chairman of the committee had the opportunity and I am sure the pleasure to take part in the official opening of our small municipal airport. Yet I am closer to Toronto which is 720 miles away than I am to some parts of the riding—almost twice as far in fact; I am 1,100 miles from Manitouwadge to the northern boundaries of the province.

From Port Severn, the northernmost community it costs by scheduled airline in excess of \$700 to go to Thunder Bay—not to Manitouwadge, not to Pickle Lake—return mileage. For that

price, Mr. Bernier—providing he does not take, with all due respect, Blais-Grenier with him—can go to Europe and back and enjoy a couple of theatre plays.

We are saying the irony is in the way the riding is divided. Again, the minister made a nice speech, but in substance what does it say? What does it generate?

You are telling me that I have a benefit, that the people of the riding of Lake Nipigon among others have a benefit to look forward to. Twenty per cent of the people in our riding are Ojibway; two per cent are Cree. Fortunately, they are covered by the federal plan. If they had to rely on this program, in terms of being our brother's keeper, of putting more into the system than we take out, then those people, the less fortunate in our society, should be lining up.

We are a civilized society. It was a nice speech, but what does he say? The benefits are their tales of Houdini: now you see them and now you do not. The future can last a long time up north. We were the first to realize that patience is indeed a virtue. And we have suffered a great deal.

I am saying again, with all the sincerity at my command, we welcome your announcement. We in the riding of Lake Nipigon are not asking that you cover overnight accommodation, which is a burden that we are willing to assume for a service that most people in the province take for granted.

2:40 p.m.

We do not take the transit system or a cab. We do it on our own accord. It takes time and we lose work, but we are not asking you to compensate overnight accommodation and meals on the road. We are saying: "No, do not do it. The public purse may not be able to stand it. Let us go step by step." But the first step is not even there for more than 60 per cent of the people, and yet they were the people who were to benefit from that plan.

Again, Mr. Minister—and I will not come back; not that I want you as a friend, but I do not want you as an enemy—will you give consideration to at least providing basic mileage coverage so that people can feel that they belong to the plan? After all, it is their plan and they should have access to the benefits under the program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think I can respond any differently than I did. You disagree with the 300 kilometre part of the program, and I understand that is where you are coming from. I acknowledge that you have brought that to my attention. I cannot tell you that I can change that overnight. I am working at implementing a

program now for northern Ontario, and 300 kilometres is a pretty reasonable starting point for travelling. I have to put that program into operation.

Mr. McKessock: Is that 300 kilometres round trip?

Hon. Mr. Elston: One way. And the program will not help the people of Grey county because—

Mr. McKessock: If it were 300 kilometres round trip, half of Grey would be entitled, as well.

Hon. Mr. Elston: —we start another area, geographically. We start at the French River.

Mr. McKessock: That is it. If you bring it down too low, Grey would want to be in that as well. We are kind of caught in the middle. We are not north; we are not south, and sometimes we are neglected.

Mr. Villeneuve: That was a very impassioned speech made by the member from the far north. I will not be quite as impassioned. However, we do have a situation, vis-à-vis Mount Carmel House in St. Raphaels, Ontario, about which I was speaking last week when our time allotment ran out.

I did check with the administrator of Mount Carmel alcohol abuse treatment centre, and perhaps we could straighten up the figures we were working on last week. I appreciate that one of your ministry representatives has checked into the figures, as well, so I am pleased to hear that.

Seventy per cent of the patients who attend Mount Carmel treatment centre pay only \$21.50 a day because they are not able to pay more, and 30 per cent of the patients pay the going rate of \$84 a day. The total operating cost of the centre is \$72 per day per patient. The total annual budget is what we were discussing last week, somewhere in the area of \$330,000 to \$340,000 a year.

Of that amount, I believe Mount Carmel requested approximately \$190,000, which was effectively the amount of wages in total paid during the previous 12-month period. They are aiming to fall within the guidelines of the mental health section of your ministry, not to be certified or licensed as a hospital or other institution but as a treatment centre similar to those that are already in existence around the province under the mental health area of the ministry of health. At present, the administrator tells me he does not know if he will be able to meet this week's payroll; it is that desperate.

You spoke with my colleague from the north about possible intentions that the previous

government had, etc., but I must tell you that the previous government did provide \$50,000 in cold hard dollars. Those were not intentions; they were actual dollars that were transferred to Mount Carmel treatment centre in the late spring of 1985, and made up the shortfall of the previous 12 months.

It is my understanding from speaking with the administrator after lunch today that they anticipate a deficit of somewhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000 because of what was mentioned last week. Many of the patients are now young people. Some of them are teenagers and others are in their early to mid-twenties. They recognize they have problems with alcohol. They are seeking help in the local community and it is available there.

This place has a capacity of 18 patients. It bears repeating that they have a success rate of between 75 and 80 per cent. I think that is a remarkable success rate. The community is behind them and provides fund-raising events, etc.

I plead with the minister. They do not know if they will be able to meet their payroll. I am sure they will find a way to meet it. However, we must address this situation very soon.

It is my understanding that the substance abuse priorities for the health council of eastern Ontario are fifth in the overall list of priorities—that is the one that moved. However, it is the second priority in the substance abuse area. The eastern Ontario health council covers three ridings and five counties. Mount Carmel offers the only treatment of its kind anywhere in eastern Ontario. I think it merits and deserves some financial help soon.

Hon. Mr. Elston: David Corder is with the branch of the ministry that has been working with Mount Carmel. Perhaps he might want to give a rundown of the events there.

Mr. Corder: We have been working with Mount Carmel for some time now. A program proposal has been submitted for an amount similar to the one you read out.

Historically, we have looked at the number one priority in the community mental health and the substance abuse programs. This is the number two priority in the substance abuse area, as you have indicated.

It is recognized that they did get a grant this year. The total operating costs, as I have them here, would be about \$340,000 if we were to fund it 100 per cent. This program falls into the area of community addiction programs relating to user fees, impediments to access and the types

of things we have been trying to deal with in the past year. I will have to wait to see what funds are available before I comment further on it, in the light of the fact it is ranked number two.

Mr. Villeneuve: What can I tell Mr. Desrosiers in the phone call I promised to make to him later this afternoon?

Mr. Corder: I cannot say much more than the fact it is number two. Historically, we have only had enough money to handle the number one priority when money has been allocated. I am prepared to look at number two if there is any flexibility after the money is approved. However, I have not proposed that. I propose to deal with recommendation number one.

Mr. Villeneuve: Is this in spite of the fact that OHIP money goes to service Ontario residents if they choose to go to institutions in New York state, or other places which may not have a better rate, and possibly an inferior rate, of recovery than Mount Carmel has?

Mr. Corder: The issue of money going to the United States, via OHIP, for addiction services is certainly a problem. It has been identified. The issue is not going to be solved by handling one program. There is a whole policy issue involved. I am convinced there would be money going to the United States regardless of what policy is implemented, due to reasons of anonymity which have nothing to do with treatment. The issue is under active consideration. I am sure something can be done in that area to ensure the programs in Ontario do not provide any deterrents to access on a community basis.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Villeneuve: The request is for slightly more than 50 per cent of their total operating costs for a year. The difference is being made up by both users and the community that contributes generously to it.

On a different matter, the health unit of eastern Ontario. As you may know, Minister, its employees are on strike right now. This is a labour problem, which revolves around a situation I think rather childish. The local papers have carried a number of editorials suggesting that a little common sense and a little bit of water in the wine on both sides would solve that problem quickly.

To my knowledge, however, a Ministry of Labour negotiator was going to Cornwall on Monday. I have not heard whether they have good news, bad news or no news. I would hope your ministry would encourage a resolution of the situation as quickly as possible, and I want

also to go on record. I realize this ministry is funding them to 75 per cent of their cost. The rest is locally funded and they do have local autonomy.

I think my colleague the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Poirier), and I know for sure my colleague the member for Cornwall (Mr. Guindon), would agree that the rules and regulations, where they involve the licensing of arenas for liquor permits, seem to be totally out of whack with what is happening elsewhere in Ontario. By that I mean that such arenas as the ones in Morrisburg, Winchester, Chesterville, Finch—and I think I could name them all—do from time to time put on events which draw large crowds. They are primarily fund-raising events and that is why these arenas are able almost to break even. Some need a little additional help from local municipalities, but most do break even.

We find that the health unit of eastern Ontario is now restricting them to 300 and 400 people whenever they use the ice surface as the place of congregation because of one thing: an apparent shortage—and it is an apparent, an alleged shortage, and not a real shortage as far as I am concerned—of washroom facilities.

Mr. Chairman: Could you just stop for a minute because staff are changing to respond to your questions. I think your first question was on the strike, is that right? Are you prepared to answer that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, I think that would be better, and then we can get to the johnnies-on-the-spot.

First, you mentioned the childish problem.

Mr. Villeneuve: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Perhaps you would identify that for me. Who are you alleging is not—

Mr. Villeneuve: I think both sides. According to what I read in letters to the editor, the clause in question reads as follows: "Pursuant to provision section 37-8 of the Labour Relations Act, Ontario, RSO 1970, as amended, 'the parties hereto agree that the following conduct on the part of employees shall be deemed to be just cause for immediate dismissal from employ of the employer: (1) the theft of property of the employer or of a fellow employee.'" Therefore, if I walked out of this room apparently with this pen, it is just cause to be fired if someone so desires.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Only if it belongs to the chairman or another of us.

Mr. Villeneuve: I see. "Wilful damages to the premises of the employer or its equipment;

driving while impaired while on the employer's business; being intoxicated or under the influence of a narcotic drug while on duty; false statement on employment application in respect of a medical history or condition; and falsification of time records." Those six items are the reason why the people are picketing.

People being animals of compromise, surely it is not a dollar situation. Those are the six items of problem creation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Kealey, can I ask if there is any report on the Monday mediation?

Mr. Kealey: No, I have not had anything back, and Dr. Blake does not have anything back either. But you are correct in saying they are looking for representation on the disciplinary committee. I understand that was to be the focus of the meeting this week.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I can do is undertake to provide to you, as soon as we get it, a report of the efforts of mediation. I have no concern about providing that material.

Mr. Poirier: I met with the union last week. They were fair enough to meet with all three of us concerned with the territory. I am sure my colleague will correct me if I am wrong, but they were not questioning those articles. They were asking management to add a clause asking them to be reasonable about this. They were saying if an employee walks out with \$1,000, of course it is somewhat different than walking out with a pen.

Mr. Villeneuve: That is a slight deviation of what has been listed.

Mr. Poirier: Right. They brought me a text of what they were asking management, as opposed to what was in newspaper articles. They do not disagree with that article, because originally the union had agreed to those conditions. But they are worried that with new management in place, they might use this to fire somebody who inadvertently walks out with a pen. Of course, we do not think this is going to be the case, but as it is written down right now, they are worried about that. They have asked management to include the clause to be reasonable about this and, apparently, management refuses to add it. Whatever help the ministry could give in resolving this impasse would be well appreciated by all sides, believe me.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Certainly, I will indicate what has come out of the Monday meeting, and I will share that with the three members who represent that area.

Mr. Villeneuve: That is right.

Mr. Poirier: Cornwall, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and Prescott-Russell, better known as the maritimes of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have a second response on johnnies-on-the-spot.

Mr. Villeneuve: Yes, that is my other area of concern.

Mr. Chairman: Did we finish that? Did we finish the strike?

Mr. Villeneuve: I simply wanted to bring the strike to the minister's attention because to me it is rather a small thing to have people walk the picket lines for I believe now in excess of 30 days.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just about a month. I think they went out on November 6.

Mr. Chairman: Any other comments on the strike? I cut Mr. Villeneuve off in the middle of his johnny-on-the-spot. Have you any more to say about that?

Mr. Villeneuve: Other than it is a farce as you alluded to. It is totally ludicrous. They have portable johnnies-on-the-spot with speed wheels on them, etc.

Mr. Turner: They race them.

Mr. Villeneuve: They do put them in parking lots of arenas and it is a joke. Could the minister comment, please?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Sometimes it is a necessity, I guess.

Mr. Villeneuve: When there are good, indoor facilities, I think the half-moon crescent is out of style.

Hon. Mr. Elston: All of us, I think, can probably relate to your concern. However, I know that even in our area where ice surfaces are frequently used to accommodate community gatherings—not only in eastern Ontario—we also have to add portable facilities to accommodate the volume of people. What has been developed is a guideline that indicates when you have a certain number of people involved in an event where alcohol is served we do require a proportionate number of facilities.

I do not know if Dr. Blake or Mr. Kealey know the exact details of the regulation in terms of the number of facilities required to accommodate a given number of people. We can go through that if you want, and it seems logical and reasonable in many cases that you do not want people inappropriately delayed in getting relief at these events. But if you want a detailed rundown—

Mr. Villeneuve: I do not believe I need a detailed rundown. My main area of concern revolves around the fact that I have never heard a complaint from the public, other than about restricting the numbers of people who can attend. Indeed, if you are getting a big-name band into the town of Maxville, which has a population of 800, and you need 1,000 people at the arena to break even or make a little bit of money, you have to bring them from all over. All of a sudden your department says, "If you are going to serve liquor, you cannot have any more than 350 people."

Hon. Mr. Elston: Unless you are going to provide those extra services.

3 p.m.

Mr. Villeneuve: I go to the Expo ball games—I am within an hour and a half of Montreal—and they serve plenty of beer in the stands there. I have seen long lineups at the washrooms. No one is complaining. I just cannot see it as a problem. Those arenas conformed to whatever rules existed when they were built. They must have or they would not have been allowed.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no question about that, but what you are talking about is qualifying for getting a permit under the Liquor Licence Act. The Liquor Licence Act has very firm guidelines under, I think it is the food premises regulations of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, as to what facilities you require and what number of people are going to be served by what number of facilities. If the people do not want a liquor licence, they are not going to have to comply with that part of the liquor guidelines. In order to comply with the liquor licence requirements, they are going to have to provide those number of facilities. You might address your concerns as well to the Liquor Licence Board.

If you are saying they should change the food premises regulations under—what is the name of the act?—the Health Protection and Promotion Act I guess it is, that is a position you should probably take up with the liquor licence people. To get that licence, you have to abide by the standards of the food premises regulations. I do not think we want to make too many differentiations between those. Consult with those people.

Mr. Villeneuve: When they have these fancy johnnies-on-the-spot out in the parking lot, no one uses them even when there are 1,000 people or more within the confines of the arena. The message there is either that the guidelines are too

stringent and too demanding or people have better bladders than we give them credit for.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I guess all of those are possible but if you want to propose that the liquor licence board should look at ways of exempting people from the food premises regulations when issuing special occasion permits, that is where you should go appropriately.

I know all of us as organizers of community events have had to consider at times getting in extra facilities. It does cause us extra work. But when we are serving the public and we have to provide the facilities to meet requirements for licences, we have to make a decision. For the health of the people, if we have to err on the side of oversupply of those facilities, perhaps that is the best way to err.

Mr. Villeneuve: Plain common sense and observation are maybe not used often enough by government bureaucrats.

I have one more item, and I realize I am jumping all over the place here.

Mr. Chairman: No problem.

Mr. Villeneuve: This has to do with a little bit of what was on the video display this morning. I am sure it has been brought to your attention. It is about the township of Charlottenburg in the county of Glengarry endorsing a resolution from the village of Omeme and the township of Emily. It reads as follows:

"Whereas the cost of supplying fire departments with equipment and proper training is causing a heavy burden on taxpayers and whereas the burden increases substantially for those municipalities where major highways, provincial parks, private parks, navigable waters and air travel are under their jurisdiction because there is a higher chance of more accidents involving people other than ratepayers, therefore the councils of the village of Omeme and the township of Emily resolve as follows:

"That municipalities with volunteer fire departments who have diversified their service to include cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, first aid, auto extrication and traffic control be funded for these additional services and, second, that the Ministry of Health be petitioned to consider additional funding for these municipalities."

This is endorsed not only by the municipality of Charlottenburg but also by a number of other municipalities I spoke to within the 19 I represent. There is a consensus that funding should be coming through once these facilities are in place.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You understand and I guess the townships would understand that fire departments come under the Solicitor General.

Mr. Villeneuve: Yes, I realize that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know how else to respond.

Mr. Villeneuve: I thought it revolved around what we saw on the video this morning. Some of your officials mentioned that firemen are basically working on resuscitation in a certain town which had a major fire.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That was Seattle.

Mr. Villeneuve: That is right. It was an American town.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The Solicitor General really looks after the involvement in funding equipment. Are the townships and the town of Omeme saying they are not receiving responses from the Solicitor General?

Mr. Villeneuve: I can vouch for that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They are saying there is no response. Therefore, they have decided to go to the Ministry of Health. I cannot start funding other programs.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is very close to some important areas that your ministry performs.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You are right concerning fire services all over the province. They are very close to what we provide. We are looking at putting together a system of emergency response, and emergency health services are in our area. There are a number of people who participate at various levels of responses, as you have pointed out. The video program this morning showed police officers as well. They come under the auspices of the Solicitor General.

We are working to provide the services and are gradually expanding our ability to respond to emergencies in all areas. You heard this morning about the study of the paramedic program. We are looking at how to implement it. However, the funding of fire departments is not an area I am going to get into, unless you can find a place in our estimates that says fire departments are to get a partial levy. I cannot do it. I am sure the Solicitor General would be concerned if the Minister of Health started to take over fire departments.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure Mr. Villeneuve would be happy if you would endorse what he is saying.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am sure he would.

Mr. Villeneuve: Thank you. I do not want to be a stick in the mud.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can appreciate your concern. I understand that the isolated areas require special training sometimes. In fact, I

have attended a number of the Solicitor General's events, where they bring out their emergency vehicles, which are funded by the Solicitor General. In these programs they train the volunteers to extricate people from cars, etc.

Mr. Villeneuve: They need a Ministry of Health vehicle to transport them to the hospital.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Ambulances do that. That is what we are in the business of doing. I have been at the district seminars in which they train members of the volunteer departments. There are volunteer fire departments in my area as well. They do it with their equipment. They are sponsoring the acquisition of some of the equipment and teaching them how to use it, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General. They are working to respond to these needs and to train people.

I was at some of the events they held last year at Port Elgin in my area. They had the Solicitor General's vehicles in attendance to show people how to use the up-to-date equipment for which these people want funding.

Mr. Dean: I have a question along the same line as the last one Mr. Villeneuve asked. It arises from the picture show we saw this morning.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is something I did not bring to the attention of the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve). Dr. Psutka can fill in your information gap about where fire departments fit into the overall system. Can you do this for a short period of time, Dr. Psutka? This will give you an idea of how everybody fits together in our system. I think this is important information.

3:10 p.m.

Dr. Psutka: It is important to dwell on the word "system." It has been resolved over the last few years that search and rescue operations are fire department responsibilities. In other words, the Solicitor General and the fire departments have the responsibility for extrication, which is rescue.

The Solicitor General did a survey around 1978 looking at extrication needs in the province. That report was tabled. Out of that came the training programs to which the minister alluded. The Solicitor General provided a guidance to all fire departments on extrication equipment and how to purchase it, and so on.

I live in a small town with a volunteer fire department. Just about a year ago, the fire department there, through the auspices of one of the service clubs, obtained the jaws of life. Of course, they have gone through the training

programs of the Solicitor General. Again, that is a fire department responsibility.

Major search and rescue operations fall under the Armed Forces through their search and rescue teams, which are available to any province.

As far as health matters are concerned, most fire departments have learned St. John Ambulance first aid. All we are asking for is that, in certain instances, we have access to those fire departments in a mutual aid agreement to provide help to us in health matters.

On the other hand, extrication and search and rescue are fire department matters. We have had a hard time holding our paramedic people down. They all want to hang off ladders and jump off cliffs, too. We have been telling them they are ambulance people and will take care of the sick and the needy. They are not going to be jumping off walls, etc.

That is really the background behind the lobby you are seeing right now.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am sorry to interrupt my colleague from Wentworth.

Mr. Dean: I hope I am not repeating something that may have been asked when I was not here. If so, I am sure the minister will let me know.

Because one of the paramedic pilot projects was in the Hamilton-Wentworth area, I am interested in some of the report which was shown to us this morning—both the statistical and the real-life one.

Just as a matter of pure coincidence, somebody was present at the meeting I was attending at noon, who had seen almost an exact duplicate of the rescue shown on the video this morning. I guess it was not all staged, if any of it was.

In view of what seem to be mixed reviews on the effectiveness of the paramedic program in certain kinds of emergencies, especially trauma, what is the future of it? I know the people in the Hamilton area are interested to know what is going on. I understand it is under review. Can you tell us anything about that?

Dr. Psutka: As I pointed out this morning, after going through the pilot and looking at our data, we feel there is a role for paramedicine. That role really has to be tailor-made into the system requirements of the area of the province we are looking at.

For example, in the Hamilton region, which is a major municipality, we feel there is definitely a role for the type of paramedic we have developed in the pilot project. Hamilton has always been in the forefront of trauma, having had a designated trauma unit many years ago. It is just accepted by

the unit in Hamilton now that all trauma goes to Hamilton.

I do not know if you picked up on the data, but there are minimal re-transfers of patients in Hamilton. A column in there pointed out that only 10 per cent of patients had to be moved to another hospital in major trauma. That indicates that the system works there.

We are saying that in the Hamilton core, if you are within five or six minutes of Hamilton General Hospital, it is really not worth while to stop to do much. On the other hand, if you are on the outskirts of the Hamilton-Wentworth region, and you are trying to move from Flamborough or Ancaster down to Hamilton General, then there is a need to do some things, such as stabilizing the airway, starting an intravenous and putting on medical anti-shock trousers.

On the other hand, the real purpose of that program is to tailor it to fit those needs. We think a role exists for it. In the report, we suggest the program carry on in Hamilton. I will be honest with you.

Mr. Dean: I appreciate you being honest. It is a great feature to have, whether elected or not. Is this an unusual part of your statement?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am encouraged by the results of the report. Whether or not it continues is not the only question you must address in a report, to be sure. We have seen some good results from the work done by the paramedics.

We have also had very good performances by the paramedics outside of Ontario. I do not know whether Dennis mentioned that this morning, but we have been internationally recognized by people from tests established outside our borders, and they have done very well.

One of the questions they always deal with is whether they get adequate training, which I dealt with very briefly this morning; that is, whether or not the level of training is correct for the service that is being provided.

There are a number of things in the report. I am quite taken with the efficacy of having a paramedic, so I do not think that is any secret at all. I attended the graduation of the initial group of people from the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology, a very good facility, and I am encouraged by the results that we have received from them. I had a very good conversation with a number of those people concerning their thoughts on what they were trained to do, and then on what they were actually performing in the field. Therefore, I do not think it is much of a secret that I am encouraged by the results of the pilot.

Mr. Dean: I noticed another phrase in the report this morning, and that was "cost-benefit analysis." How do you quantify benefits in that kind of program?

Dr. Psutka: It is a very subjective thing, but what we are saying is that there is no use putting in place a piece of equipment that perhaps may have been sold. I think the Minister pointed out this morning that we attended a display at a conference, and there were four aisles of very expensive equipment. If I had a shopping cart and an unlimited budget, what I would do is put a pup trailer behind every ambulance in the province and fill it up with all this equipment.

The point is, having the equipment does not make the program happen; it is the manpower and the commitment. Seriously, the most difficult thing we are going to have across this province, and I can only emphasize this over and over, is getting the commitment of the health care providers to work together on this.

You are seeing a little backlash from the fire departments there. They are saying: "You know, we do not really want to go out and do health care. We want to fight fires."

The police departments are a bit reticent to get involved. Even then it is only because in Hamilton there have been people who wanted to get involved, and the same thing happened in Toronto, and that is why we have had that tiered response. That does not mean it happened overnight. It took eight years of lobbying in Hamilton to get those people to work together, and that is long-term stuff. They all see now that it is worth while.

What we are concerned about is that, for example, we would spend a lot of money instructing very highly trained paramedics, and then put them into an area where there is no need and where their skills would deteriorate.

These skills, by the way, are very difficult to maintain. If you want to intubate somebody, put a tube down their throat, you have to practice. In many constituencies, if the paramedic does not achieve a certain number of intravenous starts, or a certain number of defibrillations within a time period, they have to go back to school. They have to recertify.

That was pointed out to me by the director of the Calgary paramedic program who visited us last year. He had a large number of paramedics living in firehalls out in the suburbs, and they were not doing anything because nobody was sick out there. They were on the payroll and there they were, but he says he does not know what to do about it.

We are trying to avoid some of these mistakes, and that is why we talked about cost-benefits. There are things that you can equate. The old saw in health care is, "Well, give us a price on human life." Again, that is an old saw, and what is happening in health care these days is that we are beginning to look at cost-benefits and addressing some of those issues.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Are you—

Mr. Dean: No, I am through on that particular topic. I have some others—

Mr. Pouliot: With respect, I welcome both your honesty and your sense of humour, qualities we are losing nowadays. On the subject of paramedics, those fine soldiers would be most welcome up north. Having said this, Mr. Minister, we would certainly like to recognize that your air ambulance service, although it comes very often after the fact, is very welcome.

3:20 p.m.

While I do not dispense compliments easily, whatever the form or the format, it does work extremely well up north. I am talking only about this. In terms of overall services, that is another story entirely, but I am not going to enlarge on it. I will wait for another opportunity to do so, because again, I do not want to get going on the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, because some people have said, and I am not the one saying this, that it is the most artelian or monopolistic force that people ever got involved in in terms of dispensing an essential service. You cannot sue me on that. I am safe. Having said this, and this is where I am in terms of the commitment to do something, I am not being parochial. It is not only true of the north but it is my job to represent the people up there and to fight for them—whether we are talking about paramedics, whether we are talking about midwives, no matter what we are talking about. A lot remains to be done.

I know communities that have been without doctors for 15 months. We have a locum system and the people in Mississauga have the audacity or the gall to suggest the remote north and Mississauga have a similar problem, a doctor problem.

Mississauga has too many, but the north does not have any. It does not apply to nurses, it does not apply to teachers. The cartel has been broken in those fields.

Let us call it what it is. We do not have a marketplace. We have a monopoly and we have a cartel and the will and the commitment comes from that lobby group. Those people should be

taken to task. This is where the problem lies in large part, in terms of dispensing that most essential service in the north.

Mr. Chairman: Can I just interrupt for a moment to ask the people who are here if any of them are experiencing difficulties with central ambulance dispatch?

Mr. Dean: Not recently. Out in our area, some of the dispatchers were not quite sure where some of the outlying places were.

Mr. Chairman: I am the only one, so I will pursue it privately and not monopolize your time.

Hon. Mr. Elston: How many areas in the province have central dispatch?

Mr. Chairman: I noticed a map being brought in. Would you like to see that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: For just a second.

Mr. Chairman: Was your question supplementary, Mr. Turner?

Mr. Turner: No, it was completely different.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Dean is ahead of you then.

Mr. Turner: Yes, he is.

Mr. Dean: Do you want to get this map business straightened out first?

Mr. Chairman: No, I was only interrupting on that.

Mr. Dean: Well, it is the chairman's privilege to interrupt.

Mr. Chairman: It is whether we come to it late or before four o'clock. For those who were here at twelve, we discussed this briefly.

Dr. Psutka: Basically, this is a very current map and I brought it down because I heard, Mr. Chairman, that you were interested in central dispatch and that you had some problems in your area which I think is right over here, under the Georgian dispatch.

It is interesting that when I called my management at noon, I found that they were reviewing a videotape on this exact question this morning, because there is a lot of feeling in the province about central ambulance dispatch services.

We are taking the time to get a videotape together. We are not going to request that you look at it, but it is available if anybody does want to review it. It runs about 15 or 20 minutes, and it does explain what this is all about.

This is a part of the system development in emergency health for across-the-province communications. The green areas are where the central dispatches are operating now and the red

areas are where future expansions are going to take place.

When we started this exercise, and it started long before I got to the ministry five years ago, there was a perception that we needed about 38 dispatch centres, but one has to go back to the mid 1960's when there were 400 ambulance services in the province.

Everybody was self-dispatching. In fact, a lot of them did not even have radios, and they were all running around doing their own thing. That is the way it was in those days, and there was a proposal to amalgamate all those services. That has been going on since 1965. We began to put radios into every ambulance system, and everybody was self-dispatching. That became the tower of Babel, actually.

Beginning with, I cannot remember which one, there was an intent to begin to amalgamate these dispatches. The point is that it does work, and central dispatching, when you look at it, is a very positive thing.

There is reticence and resistance from some of the operators in the province who look upon this as a takeover of some of their autonomy. What they are saying is, "Hey, I am a small business man and I want to do what I want to do," and we are saying, "Look, this is an essential service funded by the government and it is a universal benefit of the health care plan."

What we are saying is that by having central dispatching we can do a lot of things. First, we can put in higher technology than we can put into each little service. Second, we can lump everybody together under one central dispatch, which means that we can train dispatchers to a much higher level than we can if we have 200 sets of dispatchers in the province.

About two years ago, we had two inquests relating to mistakes at dispatching, and it happened because we just were not addressing what dispatchers were doing. We changed all of that with central dispatching. What we have now put in place—as you can see in the green areas—are dispatch centres that handle eight, nine or even 10 ambulance services.

The biggest misconception is that people think that when they dial, they are not going to get their local ambulance. That is not true. When you dial the central dispatch, you dial a local number, but it rings in the central dispatch. They then dispatch not only the local ambulance, but also if your local ambulance is out on another call, they dispatch an ambulance from another area.

For example, if we know that all the ambulances are moving in this direction, we will bring

ambulances in from other areas. During the tornadoes that hit this summer, I was driving out of Toronto at 5 p.m., and I saw a whole convoy of ambulances going up Highway 427. I wondered what was going on. I got to the nearest telephone and called and heard that there was a tornado. If you look at the map here, Georgian, Mississauga, Metro, Oshawa, Lindsay, Grey-Bruce, and Kitchener-Waterloo dispatches all of the mobilized ambulances in that part of the province. Seventy ambulances were sent into the area within minutes. That kind of thing does not take place unless there is that co-operation.

You did not hear anything about the emergency health care because it was all taken care of by 11 p.m., and everything was under control. There was a great movement of people, vehicles and equipment.

Mr. Chairman, what we have in your area is a personality conflict, and I think you and I should talk about that in private rather than here. It is not your personality, sir.

Mr. Chairman: Nor yours, I hope.

Dr. Psutka: No, it is not really. I can deal with that with you in private.

When you have all these CADS linked together, the other thing we can do concerns another project going on in the government right now—digital mapping. That is being done by sister ministries. The whole province is being put into computers and there are digitized maps being presented.

In the future, dispatchers in this province will be able to call up a map on a screen showing not only your street but your garage. That is how finely tuned those maps are. They will eliminate a lot of problems we have, right now, of finding you in an emergency. The biggest problem across this province and in rural areas is finding "the house with the light on at the end of the road." That does not work out too well. Some areas are using different ways of identifying their mailboxes and their houses, but we are trying to come up with a unified system for the province.

I used to make house calls in the country, and it was always interesting trying to find the house with the light on. Sometimes it took half an hour to an hour, and then the dog would usually bite me as soon as I got out of the car. It was not very much fun.

Down the road, we are looking at high technology and digitized mapping. We are looking at vehicle location. Right now, the whole province is covered with Loran C. We can easily put identifiers on the vehicles and know exactly

where they are by using that. That will help in mapping.

It is starting to work. What we are also saying is that we do not need to have too many more central dispatches. The technology is exploding faster than I can keep up with it. It looks terrible when I say that this area here is going to be dispatched from Ottawa. The point is, it does not really matter. It is strictly a telephone line. We can dispatch the system, and we will have access to much better technology if we go this route. I am convinced this works. In fact, I know it works.

Up north—this is a terrible map, and I apologize. It should be the other way around as far as size is concerned. Up north, you are well aware that if you drive 20 miles out of a town, we cannot communicate. As you said this morning, it is 600 miles to the next town. If the vehicle is out there, I do not know where it is. I cannot help them. I cannot identify that they need help.

We have started off our northern Ontario ambulance system around Sault Ste. Marie. There are 200,000 square miles now covered by 12 ambulance services.

3:30 p.m.

At Thunder Bay Central Ambulance Communication Centre, which is the next to be initiated—we are in the midst of resolving some funding problems up there, but I am sure that will be taken care of—that is ready to roll.

Once we can link up the remainder of the north it is all going to work together. This is a major undertaking. We are sharing towers with the Ontario Provincial Police, linking up airport communications and everything else. It will take a couple more years, but we are well on our way. It is a worthwhile endeavour. I am glad this map showed up today.

Mr. Chairman: I told you before lunch that I was going to ask you questions, so I am glad you have it with you.

Mr. Poirier: I know you must feel threatened that I will ask a question in French. I am not going to ask it in French, but I will ask it about French-language services.

My riding is 68 per cent francophone. One of the things people are worried about is that if they phone central dispatch, there will not be somebody at the end of the phone who will be bilingual and able to understand the emergency situation fully. I would like to be assured that in the bilingual areas of Ontario, people will be able to get a response, regardless of which official language they use when they phone.

Dr. Psutka: That is the policy.

Hon. Mr. Elston: When I toured central dispatch in Ottawa, it was pointed out that there were people on duty who were capable of communication in both English and French.

Mr. Poirier: Then I will be able to point to your ministry as a fine example, so the OPP and Bell Canada can model their bilingual services on your ministry. That is fine. I will be very glad to quote you.

Mr. Turner: Perhaps I might get back to the map.

Dr. Psutka: Do you want to see it more closely?

Mr. Turner: No; this is fine. I can see it from here with my magnifiers on. I take it this is an ongoing program.

Dr. Psutka: Yes.

Mr. Turner: You are implementing it more and more each year. When can we expect that service to be available in Peterborough, if it is not available already?

Dr. Psutka: It says "future." Hang on; it is in my book.

Mr. Chairman: Some time in the not too distant future.

Dr. Psutka: I do not have the book with me; it is in my briefcase. The whole system is supposed to be in place by 1987. I think that was the commitment.

Mr. Turner: When you say "whole system," that would be the whole area.

Dr. Psutka: The system would be either ordered or under way, as far as that goes. It takes about two years after ordering the equipment to get it installed. It has been a long-term process. We are only allowed so many dollars a year to implement it, and it takes some time. Some of the major systems in the north are very expensive. That is not to say they are not needed. It means we need to do a lot of planning.

The other thing everybody was expecting up north was that satellites would be the answer. In fact, the federal government held some room on one of its satellites to attempt to rectify this, but it has not come to fruition at this time. We are back to land-based systems. It would probably have to be there anyway to take care of redundancy. In other words, if a satellite went down and it was the only system, there would be a lot of problems.

Mr. Turner: With central dispatch, would there be a relocation of the ambulances them-

selves or would they operate out of the same areas?

Dr. Psutka: Everything is exactly the same, except that the phone is answered at central dispatch.

One of the inquests I was talking about happened in Lindsay a while back. The point was that because of a misinformed dispatcher, the system did not work. We have taken care of that since then because we have developed a dispatch algorithm, which is a thick book that takes care of any contingency.

We are putting that on a computer screen. We are going to have a dispatcher who, when you call in and say, "I have chest pains," will hit the chest pain button and he will have to ask those questions. That is how I am going to guarantee you get the proper response.

Mr. Turner: You are not anticipating that I am going to phone, are you?

Dr. Psutka: As far as that goes, no, but even for this member here, when it is computerized it will pop up on the screen in French.

Mr. McKessock: You mentioned that on the night of the tornado 70 ambulances were dispatched. To what area did they go?

Dr. Psutka: That was for the whole area the tornado cut across from Georgian Bay right through Barrie. They were pulled from all across the province. There are 550 vehicles in the province. We can mobilize them and move them about. Nobody was left uncovered. Back-up crews were called in and they picked up the slack, so no one knew anything was even happening.

Mr. McKessock: It just seemed like a large volume of ambulances. With that tornado, I guess it was fortunate there were not more injuries. A very small percentage of those would probably be used at that time.

Dr. Psutka: No, literally over a couple of hundred people were transferred. In Barrie alone there were over 120 people brought to the hospital there, and in fact Toronto sent its ambulance buses up and transferred people back to Sunnybrook and Toronto General Hospital, and two helicopters were there, one from Toronto and one from Sudbury.

This is all part of the provincial generic disaster plan that we put into effect. With the communication centres we knew almost within minutes the extent of the damage.

Mr. McKessock: So most of those would come into the Barrie area, I suppose, where there was the most damage.

Dr. Psutka: They went into Barrie and they fanned out into Grand Valley. In other words, the local ambulances took up the initial response. It is the rule in the system that the first ambulance on the scene of a disaster will become a triage vehicle. They do not leave the system, they just sit there and begin to communicate and bring in other ambulances.

People often get distressed and say, "Why are you not moving out of here when there are 20 casualties?" That ambulance will stay there and the first crew in will become the first aiders, and then the other crews coming in begin to pick up casualties and move them off to hospitals. That is all part of the triage approach to disasters.

Mr. Pouliot: To supplement what my colleague from Prescott-Russell (Mr. Poirier) has mentioned in terms of francophone services, we are really blessed by the diversity of the riding of Lake Nipigon.

I have mentioned before we have two per cent Cree, approximately 20 per cent Ojibway and we spice it up by having about 26 to 28 per cent francophone—French-speaking Canadians of French heritage, and then there are the United Nations in a smaller way, distinguished representatives from all over and so on.

Suffice to say that even within the jurisdiction I have, it is only normal because of the 20 per cent Ojibway and two per cent Cree population, in the territory that I am the native affairs critic. I am also the francophone affairs critic, and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation critic, but it is not there yet.

More often than not, the north is satisfied to have any services, and is satisfied in terms of the ambulance service by leaps and bounds. I have tested that first hand. I suffered from acute cyanide poisoning, and if it had not been for the efficiency and the expediency of the ambulance service, God knows I would not have the privilege of sharing this delightful company I am enjoying.

However, in terms of francophone services, when people from the different clubs, organizations, lobby groups, associations and liaison committees, talk about where are we going for services, more often than not, their attention and their energies are directed to the health services.

People feel that if there is a shortage, and I know it is not easy and that you have gone a long way, but you must have the political will to go a few steps further. I am sure that Mr. Poirier and Mr. Villeneuve agree that when we receive inquiries, when groups come and visit us, almost inevitably first and foremost on their list of

reasonable requests is the need for increased services in French under your ministry.

Mr. Chairman: That was more in the line of a comment than a question. Is that your interpretation of what was said?

Mr. Pouliot: Just a comment. I can word it for the benefit of the minister, I am sure.

Mr. Chairman: Can I ask a question?

Mr. Turner: Why not?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is your prerogative.

Mr. Chairman: I am not sure. I think if you are chairman you are supposed to ask permission and not interfere with the process. However, can you tell me if the Collingwood area is the only area of the province where there is a problem with central dispatch?

3:40 p.m.

Dr. Psutka: There are other areas of the province where there are some complaints. I cannot say there are major problems. There was a lot of rumbling for example in my area of Niagara before the dispatch came into place. All kinds of innuendoes and remarks, the majority of them coming in from some of the operators.

I had two letters last year from constituents who were concerned about the response. When we investigated these, we found that the responses were quite in line. The most common complaint we had from across the province was response time. The issue there is that, in an emergency, most people perceive that ambulances are slow in coming.

The other thing about central dispatch, however, is that we do have permanent records of the conversations and anything that transpired. This has been of great value for us in improving the system. Among other things, it has been of value in inquests and all sorts of investigations.

We have found, literally, that the comments coming back to us are substantially unfounded. For example, in your riding, one of the problems is the perception that there is not enough funding for the Collingwood ambulance service, and that therefore we are bringing in ambulances from other areas to cover off that area. That is not true.

We are making use of the ambulances from all around that area to cover the total area as a system, and many times the Collingwood ambulance goes out of Collingwood to cover off other areas too. There are always two sides of the coin, as far as that goes.

Mr. Chairman: I am not making any brief, that is why I am being so quiet. You have done all the talking, I have not done any and I appreciate that, because I will do my talking behind a

telephone booth some place where nobody will have it on the record.

Just as a survey, how many of you are involved with central ambulance dispatch?

That is what I figured. I do not know how you got—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Part of your area would be—

Mr. Chairman: There are quite a few who have not experienced it yet. Can I carry this a little further? I want to be fair to the ministry on this, and you have not heard much from me, although I have heard a lot from various people in that area, as you probably know. You have said that you have had complaints and they are not substantiated in most cases. Can you tell me what the down sides of central dispatch are, if any?

Dr. Psutka: I would suggest a down side might be if we have a total systems failure. In other words, that somebody will blow up a dispatch centre. That is a fear tactic that is put in place. That can happen to any dispatch centre.

We have built redundancy into the system. For example, when a tornado went through, one of our towers was knocked down, but the system still dispatched because other towers took over that tower's role.

If we had a self-dispatch system in Collingwood, it would probably be able to afford the one tower. If that tower went down it would be out of business, and you may not have a way of linking other ambulances in the area.

Mr. Chairman: We do not need to dwell on Collingwood, because I probably understand the problems better than you do, but I have not bothered you, so that must tell you something. However, go ahead and tell us—

Interjections.

Dr. Psutka: I will be honest. When I walked into the ministry I inherited this, and just like you and many others in the province I said, "Convince me". Over the years I have been thoroughly convinced, and at this time I would have a hard time telling you of a very bad down side to this.

Mr. Chairman: That is fair. If there are not any, that is fair.

Dr. Psutka: I just do not see any, otherwise I would not be selling it as hard as I am.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Dean, were you finished?

Mr. Dean: I was finished with the comments on ambulances and paramedics, but I had some other, more lengthy questions on the whole question of health care for seniors. I do not know whether you want to get into that now.

Mr. Chairman: What is the nature of your question, Mr. Turner?

Mr. Turner: It is very parochial and has to do with the health service in that great community, the city of Peterborough.

Mr. Chairman: For seniors?

Mr. Turner: Everybody.

Mr. Dean: Do you mean they were not of sound mind when they elected you?

Mr. Turner: Now, now. I did not say that.

Mr. Chairman: Proceed, then, Mr. Dean.

Mr. Dean: The first aspect, which is general enough to include almost anything, is the commitment that is shown in the minister's statement—which he inherited to some extent from the previous administration—to have a co-ordinated health care program for the elderly. He has said that his ministry and the Ministry of Community and Social Services are honour bound to co-operate with the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Van Horne) in his review of the programs and whatever he may come up with.

I do not know how smooth the road has been or is going to be or what the extent of the commitment is, but those of us who have had anything to do with health care for seniors know this is a very crucial matter. Would the minister like to enlarge on what he has already stated about the kind of commitment, the kinds of difficulties that are to be overcome and where he as minister stands in his determination to stick with it until he succeeds?

Hon. Mr. Elston: In 25 words or less?

Mr. Dean: I will take them one at a time—25 words each.

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to the commitment to stick with it, a good degree of co-operation has taken place between my ministry and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to provide assistance to Mr. Van Horne so that he can complete his task. His initial phase has been evidence enough of the degree of commitment we have. The Ministry of Health provided a number of resource people who worked in co-ordinating a lot of the material that was available through the Ministry of Health.

Glen Heagle from the Ministry of Health headed up the ministry's component of that dedicated group. Gerry Duda from the Ministry of Community and Social Services headed up that ministry's group. They came together and worked very hard. We provided a couple of extensions to the time in which we provided the resource people's assistance to the exercise.

In addition, with respect to commitment, I have made available every piece of information I and my ministry could to assist in indicating what services were available and how they might be co-ordinated. There were about 105 studies generated through district health councils at various times on various aspects of seniors' services and requirements for seniors' services in the province. We made all that material available to them, so we have exhibited that commitment through the process the ministry has been involved in.

We are there, we are getting a report and we are committed to co-ordinating. We have a very good relationship with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and the group in his ministry in discussing what options there might or might not be. I cannot comment any further than that. There is a lot of goodwill involved. I do not know what more detail you want.

Mr. Dean: I do not expect you to talk all afternoon about it. I take it that the review which is the prerequisite to knowing where you are going to go from here is practically completed. Is that what I can gather?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Phases of the review are coming to completion. In the interim, the Ministry of Health has not stood still with respect to services for seniors. As we indicated earlier, we have decided to move on several aspects of policy decisions dealing with nursing homes, for instance. We are not sitting back and waiting for the full study to be done. We feel there are things we should pursue now, as a ministry, to ensure quality health care and programs for seniors.

We are anxiously awaiting final decisions with respect to Mr. Van Horne's report, but in the interim we are working to make sure that regulations which are available under the Nursing Homes Act not only appear good, but can be enforced as being good as well. We are actively pursuing a number of other steps along those lines even now. To a certain extent, with respect to putting together an overall package, I am looking forward to Mr. Van Horne's report, but we are continuing to pursue improvements in our own system as it is right now.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Dean: I take it the report will contain recommendations for the amalgamation or distribution of the programs among the different ministries.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The Minister without Portfolio was quoted in the paper as saying

options were available to distribute, to redistribute or even to redefine new modes of delivering services for seniors. I anticipate he will come forward with recommendations on how those options should be exercised. Then it would be a matter of policy decision to be determined by the government.

Mr. Dean: We look forward with interest to the recommendations and what you and your colleagues do with them.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We all do.

Mr. Dean: On the subject of nursing homes, which you have raised, again I note the suggestion—it may be a forerunner of future policies—that perhaps more consideration should be given to the community and nonprofit groups as operators of nursing homes. You may want to enlarge on that but, in doing so, I would like your comments on what this will do to the present operators. In some cases, they may feel that to perform a really efficient operation they require more beds.

I am sure every community has cases like that and I have some in my community. That is one reason I am so well-acquainted with it. Are they going to be left out on a limb in this case? What is going to be your policy on that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: People will not be left out on limbs. We are looking at providing services for communities. If we find there are people who are interested when we request proposals for the management and building of new beds in a community, certainly we can look at such a role if a community nonprofit group wishes to supply those services.

I have been approached by several community organizations that have said to me that when proposals were requested, they were much disadvantaged because they could not show a track record with nursing homes. Yet they have a specific commitment to people in their communities. In some cases, we have had community groups coming together to indicate they wish to provide a certain style of operation which could not be available through private, profit-oriented organizations.

A good example would be the people of the Ontario Finnish Resthome Association in Sault Ste. Marie, a wonderful facility. They indicated a desire to accommodate, although not exclusively, people of Finnish background in the area. They had a great program available and I am sympathetic that they had particular talents they could make available to that community.

We are looking at proposals. Where there are specific and special community interests which

nonprofit groups would like to display to us, I am open to them answering the calls as well. We have opportunities available to meet community needs. Everybody will be invited, but no one will be penalized because they do not have a long track record.

Mr. Dean: I can appreciate that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Something you would also probably know is that we are now going through the compliance review process with a number of those operators whom you may have met with in your various areas. We are looking at ways of upgrading the operation of those areas to serve the community needs. A number of things are happening all at one time.

Mr. Dean: I was hoping you were also committed to that as it was started before.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I acknowledge it was a program that was in place, but I had to give it the impetus of getting it going again because it did falter for a while. As I understand it now, we are looking at more than 200 applications for hearings. Under Sam Ruth, who was appointed chairman of the compliance plan review committee before I came in, the ministry is well in the way of getting started.

Paul, can you tell me if they started on November 18? That is when they were supposed to start. Paul Gould, who is the director of the nursing homes branch, has just advised that they did start their hearings on November 18. So those people are not being left out.

Mr. Chairman: Before we recessed at lunch, there was some discussion about next week's schedule. My inquiries indicate that nothing has changed as of this point. Could we have your agreement to meet next week from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., that will be the plan.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Unless you want to meet earlier.

Mr. Chairman: Unless you want to meet longer.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am prepared to start earlier if people want to.

Mr. Chairman: And meet longer?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am prepared to do that if you wish to.

Mr. Chairman: What are our hours now?

Clerk of the Committee: There are seven and a half left.

Mr. Chairman: I think Mr. Cooke, who is not here at the moment, has been objecting to meeting for more than four hours.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I spoke with him when he was here. He said he was prepared to go earlier if the committee agreed.

Mr. Dean: Are you suggesting that we could wrap it up in two more days if we start earlier?

Mr. Chairman: We can even if we do not.

Mr. Epp: Is there a suggestion that if we meet longer next week, we could wrap it up next week?

Mr. Chairman: That was not part of what was discussed, but that is an option.

Mr. Epp: Are we going to sit five hours next week and finish it up?

Mr. Turner: Are there seven and a half hours left?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Turner: Who is suggesting that?

Mr. Epp: The chairman said that was an option.

Mr. Dean: Would it be possible to work one full day and one half day, if we sat a little longer?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can start next week at 9 a.m. and go to 12 noon, for instance.

Mr. Dean: Let us try that then.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: That will be 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Is that the agreement? We will do so. Thank you.

Mr. Turner: Just a minute, I still have a question.

Mr. Chairman: That is right, but we have had our four hours today.

Mr. Turner: It is not four o'clock yet, with all respect.

Mr. Chairman: I know but we went until 12:05 p.m. I do not think you were here at that time.

Mr. Turner: I was here, Mr. Chairman, but just a quick question if I may.

Mr. Chairman: What time is it?

Mr. Turner: It is two minutes to four.

Mr. Dean: That is going to be overtime.

Mr. Turner: We often go into overtime. I was approached over the weekend by some members of the medical community in Peterborough with regard to the rehabilitation unit at St. Joseph's General Hospital in Peterborough.

The announcement has been made, apparently, and they were told the funding had been made available but there had not been a decision as to timing. They are very impatient. They would like very much to get ahead with the proposition. If the minister could get me an answer on that, I would appreciate it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, everybody.

Hon. Mr. Elston: All done in less than 30 seconds.

The committee adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

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No. G-8

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Health

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, December 11, 1985
Morning Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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From the Ministry of Health:

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, December 11, 1985

The committee met at 9:09 a.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 3601, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Chairman: We have a quorum. We are at any vote on which you wish to speak.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think Mr. Cooke is going to do some work on nursing homes.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke wishes to start.

Hon. Mr. Elston: May we have a motion to declare this a nonsmoking committee?

Mr. Chairman: No.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is the one thing on which the chairman and I agree.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We should really have a vote on this.

Mr. Chairman: I refuse to put the motion.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You can vote on it this afternoon.

9:10 a.m.

I want to ask a few questions. I am trying to get organized on the nursing home issue. By the way, Paul Gould is here. He is the director of the branch.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We all know Paul.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: First, I would like to run through a couple of the cases I have raised and then go into some more general questions.

A week or so ago I raised the case about Mrs. Wright who died in hospital after coming out of Beacon Hill Lodge. Does the minister have an update as to what the circumstances were? Specifically, I would like to know what the policy is. The minister made a comment in the House, and at the end of the question period I sent over some information. He seemed to indicate that the appropriate process was a complaint to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and I am not sure that I agree with that, since it was the home doctor. There obviously were other factors, not just the doctor but other staff, administration and so forth, who had been made aware that there was a problem.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am always a little hesitant to discuss personal medical information and I do not think I should do that in committee. In this situation I guess the question you asked was with respect to a misdiagnosis of what was happening. That was what I took from the question. I think you had said to me that they diagnosed arthritis and it turned out there were some fractures involved.

In that situation the person in charge of diagnosis is obviously the physician. That probably is an area you should investigate as to whether or not there was a thorough examination.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Or should you examine that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot do so in terms of the diagnosis. If it were a complete misdiagnosis then there are some concerns that should be expressed through the college, which is where these things can be done routinely because they know how to handle the question of confidentiality. Traditionally, the minister does not get involved in hearing a review of that.

I have some correspondence that may be a little more specific for you in the sense that you raised it as an extension of the family enquiry. I do not see how I can put on the record all the personal information; I do not think that is appropriate.

If a physician is diagnosing, there may be valid reasons for a fracture having been missed initially, given the circumstances of this lady's condition. I do not know. I do not want to discuss personal details on the public record. I do not see that I could do that, although I can tell you I have looked into the matter. There is an explanation coming to you because it has been raised by the family through you. I guess that is almost an implied authorization.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Was an incidence report filed?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know that. We can take a look and see.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We did ask for that. I am not sure we have it yet.

Mr. Gould: If I may, the situation was that the woman was admitted to hospital at the request and direction of the physician. It was not

determined whether there was an incident involved. As soon as the woman displayed the symptoms, the physician was contacted. He had her admitted to hospital where diagnosis was made. So there was no incident per se other than a transfer to hospital.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If someone has a broken arm and a broken hip and no one had detected that anything caused it, then there would not be an incident report filed by the nursing home.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Do you not see that as a problem? Obviously, people do not just break their hips and break their arms.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Under some circumstances that can happen in particular situations. Perhaps when you analyse the situation with the—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Another woman had cancer. That has been in the local papers. I know the family extremely well. I do not normally discuss details.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You may not feel as constrained as I do. I have a great difficulty in discussing those sorts of details. I am advised that in certain diseases it is not uncommon to have a brittleness which can exhibit itself in that fractures can occur. Perhaps the physician among us might tell us a little more.

Dr. Dyer: In cases such as this, and I am not saying this case, where you have bone metastases, the starting of cancer to the bone, spontaneous fractures occur without an incident. They simply occur with individuals lying in bed. I am not sure that is the case here. When you perceive multiple fractures, perhaps even occurring at different periods of time, the first and natural assumption is that it is a spontaneous fracture. That can occur without anything happening. They do not even have to move.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Bruising and so forth is all part of it?

Dr. Dyer: Yes, that follows. Whenever you get a fracture and the bone moves, the bruising and swelling at the site are part of the symptoms and signs of a fracture.

It is not an unusual thing to see in bone cancer the kind of very strange circumstances where an individual can be lying in bed, will reach for a glass of water and the individual's arm will fracture. I am not saying that is the case here. You certainly should investigate it. With a 97-year old individual and that history, it is a possibility.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In cases such as this, in which on the Thursday before the woman was

admitted to hospital it was diagnosed as being arthritis, basically you are saying it is up to the family to pursue it. They were obviously quite distraught. They came to me because they know me personally.

I doubt very much whether they are going to pursue it with the college of physicians and surgeons. They have just buried their grandmother, and in Mr. Wright's case, his mother. If this was a misdiagnosis, the home doctor does get compensation both through the Ontario health insurance plan and under the Nursing Homes Act. Is there any feeling that the ministry, through its nursing homes branch, should have some responsibility for not only investigating, but of referring the matter to the college of physicians and surgeons if upon investigation it is found that there was a misdiagnosis?

In many cases, there is no family. You are saying that if the responsibility lies with someone else, and we do not have a formal advocacy program in the province, then it does not happen; it does not occur. If there is not a complaint, the doctor is not held accountable and, in some respects, neither is the home.

Hon. Mr. Elston: One reason for having a home physician in place is that for the purposes of the home there is an ability to provide a review of the health condition of the patients. I would think the home would be quite concerned if it was felt that the person was not performing his duties as well as required under the agreement for the person to be their physician.

There are a couple of other checks that probably you may have overlooked. The person who is not providing the service obviously would have his employment terminated. If there is a concern about the quality because of working for the home, I would suspect that the home would also have the ability to make a complaint.

Regarding the situation with the family, I presume there probably was also a family physician involved in this as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There was one, but when the individual was admitted to hospital, they would not let the home doctor take care of the patient any longer. In this case, they said they wanted the family doctor who had been involved with this woman before she entered the nursing home.

The minister knows as well as I do that another doctor—

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will take a look at whether or not they were ever refused the opportunity of having the family physician involved. That is a concern I would have as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No. I did not say that.

9:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Oh, I am sorry.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I said the family physician became involved when the individual was put into hospital because the family no longer wanted the home doctor involved.

In Ontario, you will not very often have a doctor complain about another doctor.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It occurs on occasion.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not think you are going to see a nursing home complain about a home doctor, filing a complaint with the college of physicians and surgeons. The problem is that we are really looking at advocacy structures of who advocates for this individual who is now deceased.

Dr. Dyer: I think it is a valid question. We could ask the medical advisory committee of the hospital to look into the case, or the peer review mechanism within the hospital to which the patient was admitted. We could ask for a report from that medical advisory committee. They would look into the circumstances with reference to the chart and diagnosis. They have the ability to do that. That would be the first step we could take.

If they found any misadventure, then that is the group that could file. They are the peers who could make and file a complaint; they could take that step.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It would be useful. This home has not had exactly a terrific record. They benefited substantially from the court ruling and had 28 of their 36 charges dropped as a result of the Elm Tree Nursing Home decision.

Hon. Mr. Elston: May I please ask a question before you go on? Has the suggestion been made to you by your friends that there was abuse of the person or is it that they do not know?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They do not know. They are not making an accusation that someone abused the person. They do not know how it happened. They know the individual complained on the Thursday the doctor had visited and said it was arthritis, then she went for four days with a broken hip and a broken arm before getting any medical attention. Even then, after several complaints to staff, it was given only as a result of the family coming in and demanding that the individual be allowed to go to hospital.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The one thing we have obtained is the chronology. She was first seen on November 7 and again on November 13 for pain

in her back and then on November 17 for pain in the left arm. At that point, she was immediately admitted to emergency. We can tell you that much about it.

In any event, I will do a more thorough analysis of what Dr. Dyer brought up about the possibility of peer review and get a little more information on the condition. That could be transmitted to the family through you.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The other concern I have is that if this individual had not had a granddaughter and son who were sufficiently concerned that they came in to see me, there would be no investigation whatsoever. The person simply would have died and that would have been the end of it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Under the circumstances, though, if there appeared to be a problem when admission occurred, in the sense that she exhibited signs of abuse which would not be normal, questions would have been raised by the physicians involved and on whether an inquest would be held. There is always that backup.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I wish that were the case. However, with a 97-year old woman who has cancer, I just do not think that is what happens. Normally, the response would be that person was going to die. She died. That is the end of it.

It is not realistic to think that, under the current system, there is a lot of accountability built in. That is one of my concerns. I am sure it is one of the many things Mr. Van Horne is looking into. He will be reporting on an advocacy mechanism for people such as Mrs. Wright; even more important, for people who could be in similar circumstances and are without any family.

Let us take the point I raised the other day. I had previously corresponded with you about the \$1,000 deposit, which I gather is not exclusive to the four homes I mentioned. My understanding is that there are about 145 people also on Green Shield in Mr. Docherty's four homes. This means he can theoretically have \$145,000 on deposit, which could return a substantial amount of money if properly invested.

I have talked to both the people who administer Green Shield and the Ontario health insurance plan. I gather, unless I am wrong, that OHIP does not pay on the first day of every month and Green Shield does not pay all that differently than OHIP. Once the person is in the system, the monthly cheques come in. If you are admitted on December 1, the first payment from Green Shield would be on approximately January 10 or 15.

I know from the placement co-ordinator, Mrs. Prince, with whom I have talked in Windsor, that

this is a concern of hers in that it deters some people from being allowed to make these homes one of their three choices if they are in a chronic or an acute-care facility waiting for placement in a nursing home. It actually is a financial deterrent.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are moving a little more quickly on implementing the program in which they have to account for those deposits and the interest that is earned on them. It has been in the works for a little while.

I cannot say that dealing with the problem is exclusively my interest, but it is extremely high on my priorities. One of the difficulties we have had, for instance, is coming up with a method of calculating the accumulation of interest. We are dealing with that part of the problem to ensure that somebody is not making a lot of extra money from these deposited funds.

Your concern about the policy of denying people access is a concern of mine as well, and I will certainly look into that a little more thoroughly to see what can be done.

You know that the extra charges levied are of continuing concern to me in general because of the manner in which they are implemented, the size of them on occasion and the fact that they become an exclusive or at least a monopolistic sort of service provision inside those areas.

For the past little while there have been attempts to get this program of interest accountability implemented. The branch is continuing to work very closely on that one. The question of preventing people from getting in is one I will be addressing more thoroughly.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In a letter that Mr. Docherty sent to me he said, to quote part of one paragraph: "I have had some of them," referring to relatives of residents, "state openly that they did not expect that their parents' pension cheques were for the express purpose of enhancing their children's lifestyle."

The only reason I read this is that I gather it is Mr. Docherty's normal kind of response. I gather he feels that individuals' pension cheques have been specifically put in place to enhance his lifestyle. The children who have brought it to my attention did not do so because they wanted access to the money. They just felt that if their parents belonged to a particular carrier, they were supposed to be protected against these kinds of charges and a nursing home should not be able to take advantage of that system.

When OHIP pays, it does not pay on the first day of every month, does it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: What is the billing date for that? Do you know, Mr. Gould?

Mr. Gould: The extended-care program cheques are issued approximately the first week after the following month.

9:30 a.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is exactly the same policy Green Shield uses. As I have been told by Green Shield, individuals get the cheques about the 15th, the middle of the following month, and then there are regular monthly cheques.

I do not know whether you have the authority under the current act or regulations to stop this. If you do not, I do not know how quickly you can act. I do not know whether it would require an amendment to the Nursing Homes Act or an amendment to a regulation. I hope you would be able to take action as quickly as possible to stop any owner of a nursing home who did this, particularly the fellow who tried to bring in these \$2-a-month charges for electrical appliances until it was brought to your attention and stopped.

The other question is, whoever wrote the letter to me on October 21—and I know that you do not personally write all your own letters—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, I do. In fairness, I do read them and go through them; I do not have anybody sign them for me. However, when you stand up in the House and ask me about a specific incident, I am certainly not able to recall every letter I send you.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is perfectly understandable, but I am concerned about the philosophy indicated in the letter that was sent to me, whether it came from the southwest regional office in London or whoever wrote the letter. I assume it came from that office. It was simply an explanation and a defence of the policy, and I have some serious questions about whether your ministry staff should defend policies like this in writing unless you honestly believe they are correct policies and you are going to support the \$1,000 deposit.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I already said we have been concerned about that program. You should be aware, first, that changes can be made by regulation, I am advised. In fact, regulations have been in place to try to deal with those questions of deposits in any event—that is what Paul Gould has been working on recently—and we will be addressing those extra charges as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When do you think this type of thing will be addressed? Is this going to have to

be all part of Mr. Van Horne's package, or can this type of thing be rushed more quickly?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No. We are working on a considerable number of movements in the nursing home field apart from the Van Horne analysis, basically because I believe that, no matter what the analysis shows, we have to continue to improve upon the system. We have the responsibility to take some immediate steps to alleviate some of the conditions you have pointed out on occasion and, in fairness, that other members have brought to my attention as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: So the goal? The date?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know; I cannot tell you a date. Everybody wants a date for everything. Dr. Dyer has some thoughts about the thoroughness of discussion of certain things we are doing, and there are other members who would like to discuss items pretty thoroughly.

All I can tell you is that we are working on them. We have had a series of meetings to discuss regulations and drafts of regulations.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If you see this case as a problem, then obviously outside your package you could take action to stop this \$1,000 deposit in isolation from other items in this package of reforms. That is what I am looking for. You are basically saying we will have to wait for the package before we can act on this.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not totally saying that. All I want to tell you is that when I take a look at what we are doing, I like to have an idea of how everything is being fitted together. I like to discuss the thing in a sense that we are coming up with quality-of-care packages in general that will make it worth while.

We are aware of this particular incident and we are concerned about it, but I cannot tell you when action is coming; I cannot give you a physical date for it.

Mr. Pope: As a supplementary, what regulation is being reviewed, and by whom?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have a series of regulations. Maybe Darwin Kealey, who is the assistant deputy minister in the area, can respond.

Mr. Kealey: The minister has asked for a package of amendments to the act that would address quality, ownership and transfers. He has indicated in the House that he would be bringing that package forward in the next short while.

The new special prosecutor, Marvin Morten, working with Lloyd Budzinsky, has gone back and reviewed all our regulations, particularly as

they relate to all the court cases during the last two and a half years.

What has become quite apparent is that the act, when it was proclaimed in 1972, was mainly concerned with correcting deficiencies as such and was not intended at that time to be used as a tool or an instrument for prosecution. We have been informed by a number of judgements that the wording is quite vague and has to be tightened up. We will be bringing forth other regulations flowing from the new amendments as well. Both packages will be ready in the next short while.

Mr. Pope: Are you tying the amendments to the regulations into the amendments to the act?

Mr. Kealey: Yes and no. We will have to amend a number of regulations because of court decisions. For example, two or three have to be amended as a result of the Elm Tree Nursing Home case. In addition, there will be some new regulations flowing from the amendments to the act.

One of the things Mr. Cooke raised a little while ago was the whole question of accountability for the advisory physician. We want to put in place a regulation outlining the role and responsibilities of the advisory physician, but we would like to do it by a guideline rather than by a regulation. Therefore, one of the amendments proposed would be to provide for guidelines, much as we have under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, and then we could move in guideline form with the role and responsibility of the advisory physician.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Why would it be done in that form and not by regulation?

Mr. Kealey: It is just a matter of wording. It is more flexible to deal with. The guideline form would still have a statutory base. We have been working on the wording of that with both the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Nursing Home Association for the last couple of months. We are now basically ready, but we would like to do it by guideline rather than by regulation if we could.

Mr. Pope: I have one last supplementary just so I have it clear in my own mind. Someone is now working on an amendment to the regulation with respect to deposits. Is that right?

Dr. Dyer: With respect to interest-bearing accounts.

Mr. Pope: Someone is now working on an amendment to a regulation with respect to interest-bearing accounts. When will the regulation be ready?

Mr. Kealey: The regulation will flow from an amendment to the act. In the package of amendments the minister will be bringing forward is an amendment that will allow him to control charges for uninsured services. It will allow us to make a regulation that can outline both those things that will be permissible by way of charges and any control measures we might have on them.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When you say "uninsured services," do you mean uninsured with respect to OHIP only?

Mr. Kealey: Yes, because a number of them may provide services—for example, hairdressing, transportation services or whatever.

There are two points. No one likes to see the abuse of the system. On the other hand, there is the other side of the debate. One might argue you would not want to prohibit them completely, because some services are provided that residents or patients may very well want. Quite often they may have someone do their shopping or this sort of thing for them. The sense is that you do not want them abused, but you certainly do not want them to get out of control the way some have in the Docherty home.

Mr. Pope: What section of the act is inadequate to address the regulating of charges for services or interest-bearing accounts? What section of the act creates those problems?

9:40 a.m.

Mr. Kealey: Regardless of the section, I know from looking at the drafts that it has been dealt with in there for that reason.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: While he is looking that up, you obviously have a list of areas you are looking at. In the interests of public consultation and your desire for input from all quarters, is it possible for us to get a copy of the list you are looking at for amendment?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have had a series of discussions with our friends from various numbers of the advocacy groups. For example, Concerned Friends of Ontario Residents in Care Facilities have been in and raised items for our concern. Some of the things that have been raised for review and amendment obviously have come out of the judgements in the court cases we have gone through.

Some of the amendments to the regulations are a matter of an addition of one or two words to take away vagueness—for instance, the addition of "owner and administrator" to regulations where either one or the other word previously had been in the sections. Some of them are minor,

and on those types of items we can move fairly quickly without public consultation. We are responding in those cases by way of judgements.

We have talked about other items at considerable length with a number of people, but I will provide you with some of the items if you wish, such as the questions of the operation of the presidents' councils and questions of quality care items that are inside homes and how you address those. It might be a situation in which we could provide your requests better by correspondence.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is okay. I did not mean to have it here in committee. If you could supply me with a written list of areas you are looking at, we might even be able to make more suggestions than we have in the past.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Could I have an agreement that I could forward those not to all members of the committee but only to the critics, with a copy to the chairman of this committee? Would that be appropriate?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Sure.

Mr. Pope: You had better send them directly to us. I do not know whether the chairman—

Hon. Mr. Elston: I thought I would write directly to the critics and also directly to the chair.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Put my initials on it or else it will go to your Dave Cooke.

Mr. Chairman: When are you going to write?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Early fall?

Mr. Chairman: Early fall. You might as well send it to the critics and that will do. You probably will not be writing this week.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Why? Are you expecting something, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: I am expecting to get rid of the Health estimates next week.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The reason I thought I should address it to the chairman of the committee is that, because a question is raised here, it ought to be available to the committee if other members are interested.

Mr. Chairman: I think that is a good principle, and there is another one that follows it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Is something happening with the chairman that we do not know about?

Mr. Chairman: There are a couple of things that follow from last week. You were going to provide a list of the services extended under the 8.3 per cent increase, hospital by hospital, for Mr. Pope, and a list of the mental health centres with the capacity to deal with the rehabilitation of

head-injured persons for Mr. Cooke. Those may be the only two outstanding commitments.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There is also a report on the status of the Gerstein report and what has been done.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Dean had a supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just before we move to him, I am sorry. Section 8 is apparently the section dealing with uninsured services, and the other is section 97 on trust accounts. Those are the sections that Mr. Pope might want to take a look at at some point.

Mr. Pope: Was there a court ruling on section 8 or section 97 that makes them inadequate, or is it a legal opinion?

Mr. Kealey: No, it is not a matter of a court action; it is a desire to change it.

Mr. Dean: My question could be considered a supplementary in the sense that we are still talking about nursing homes. It is as supplemental as anything is in these estimates.

I note quite an emphasis on improved inspection. I am not able to tell from the estimates how much of the increase is for improved inspection, and that is my first question. I notice that your estimates and previous estimates are not broken down into inspection versus other items.

Mr. Kealey: There are two points to the improved inspection. Along with the establishment of the nursing home branch a year ago, there was a desire to go back and look at what resources would be required. Basically, that is the foundation of the minister's announcement to have a public review of the inspection process and the inspection branch. It would not only look at scope and compliance but also at what resources would be required, both from a policy development framework point of view and from actual inspection and so forth.

That is part of the external review the minister announced. There was a call for a proposal. A number of companies were interviewed this week and a decision will be made early in the new year. It is expected that report will be completed by March 15.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You referred to it as a public review. I thought it was an internal review.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is an external review carried on outside the auspices of the ministry. It is not internal. We are going outside the ministry to do a review.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is right. However, it is not a public review in that there are no public hearings and so forth.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No. It is an external analysis of the operation of the branch.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Can we get a copy of the terms of reference for this external review?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not see any problem with that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: An external review is fine, but why did the minister decide to do it in a way that does not provide for a lot of public discussion and public hearings? It is more of an operational review than a review of the adequacy of inspections, related to personpower as well as to the act itself and authority. There are a lot of people in our province who are concerned about the inspection process. This does not seem to be a very good forum for them to participate in and have input.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think we have to have an analysis of the capabilities of our branch to carry out the current and anticipated mandates. I want to understand pretty thoroughly how we are able to anticipate the operation of the branch and its capabilities.

As you know, we get input—I guess I cannot say daily, but it is frequent—from people who raise concerns about the operation and style of the nursing homes branch. They raise questions fairly regularly, as you do, about what appear to be deficiencies. I wanted to examine pretty thoroughly how we were able to handle the types of problems raised and how we might be able to handle areas of reform.

I opted for that because we have a fair rating through Mr. Van Horne has conducted a very public and extensive analysis of services to seniors that has focused the attention of the entire province on what might be needed in the system. I decided I would like to see what we could do from an operational standpoint.

It is not as though we have not had forums about this in various centres and various places. It is not that we do not have a considerable number of interest groups that keep us informed of areas they indicate we should move on.

You have to know what you are capable of. I have to know that and that is why I opted for this type of review.

The other public analysis of what is going on has been done by Mr. Van Horne. It is frequently done by people who provide us with input and ask us to inspect conditions that have raised concern. I needed something to tell me what we are capable of. That is why I opted for that type of review.

9:50 a.m.

Mr. Dean: I think Mr. Kealey was in the middle of telling us what was in the estimates for improved inspection. This was just one item. I presume you are not waiting for this to be completed before you improve the inspection of nursing homes.

Mr. Kealey: We have added additional staff and resources to the branch this year.

Mr. Dean: Do you have any figures.

Mr. Kealey: I think \$200,000 or \$250,000 was added to the branch for staff. There is a kind of catch 22 in the whole inspection process. Traditionally, all the staff was oriented towards inspection, and that is fine and needed. However, to address some of the issues raised by a number of groups, whether it is a question of advocacy, rights or moving toward actual programs for quality care and life enhancement, we need staff on the policy development side as well on our program development side. All the resources were totally in the area of inspection and enforcement. For example, we recruited Brian Cowperthwaite from the vice squad of the Metropolitan Toronto Police as prosecution co-ordinator.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The fraud squad.

Mr. Kealey: Yes, the fraud squad. Thank you.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I can see the headlines.

Mr. Kealey: He not only is bringing his expertise into it, particularly relating to financial and other matters, but is in a position to train the inspectors in the methods of investigation. We have added Marvin Morten as a full-time special prosecutor with the ministry to move ahead with the legal aspects. As we go along, we are attempting to strengthen the process.

Mr. Dean: Does the \$200,000 covers that kind of appointment and additional staff in the field or is that a different item?

Mr. Kealey: No; some additional staff was added. Four inspectors were added to the field.

Mr. Dean: In the newspaper yesterday, I noticed a very large advertisement for nurse inspectors in the salary range of \$28,000 to \$33,000. It did not say how many. They need to be well qualified, with experience in the area of actual professional nursing and other things. I also noted they are supposed to have "ability to analyse and evaluate complex inspection findings...prepare inspection reports," and so on. There is mention of long-term programs and administration, etc. Is it the same area as the question I am asking, or is that something else?

Mr. Kealey: No; that is to fill some current vacancies in inspection positions.

Mr. Dean: It does not reflect additional inspection staff.

Mr. Kealey: No; it is to fill vacancies.

Mr. Dean: I have one more question on that. Has the inspection branch been understaffed?

Mr. Kealey: It is not a matter of whether the inspection branch was understaffed. Some years ago, nursing homes were constituted as a branch within the ministry. In the period after 1972, I am not exactly sure when, it became a unit of another branch. Then about a year ago the decision was made to reconstitute it as a branch, not only to have inspection service but also to have the ability to deal with some of the policy development aspects. Most of the issues raised are issues where people want change, reform, clarification or whatever.

That is different from the staff in the field. The staff we have in the field are professional nurses, nutritionists or fire inspectors. They have those backgrounds; different than we need to move forward with the policy development for a reform package.

Mr. Dean: Basically, the \$200,000 is more on the policy development side as you said earlier, and no additional resources have been allocated to inspection staff?

Mr. Kealey: Four inspectors were added to the field this year. There was actually more than \$200,000 because we have the special prosecutor. He is part of the legal services branch, so his salary is accounted for there.

Mr. Dean: What is the total number of inspectors, approximately?

Mr. Kealey: There are 36 inspectors.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We should give a breakdown of what those inspectors are because there are various inspectors for various types of operations. Do you want a rundown of the classifications?

Mr. Kealey: My understanding is there are 20 nursing inspectors, four nutritional inspectors and six or seven fire safety inspectors.

Mr. Dean: How often would they be able to inspect each home?

Mr. Kealey: There is a requirement for each home to have an annual relicensing inspection by all three disciplines. If a home is being sold, there is also a requirement for a pre-sale inspection and a pre-licensing inspection. There are complaints that inspectors have to investigate, and there are what we call events or occurrence inspections.

They happen from time to time if for some reason they sense an additional inspection is required.

It depends on the nature of the home. If the quality of care is good, if there are no complaints and if the annual inspection has been quite positive, then they may not go back as often. With other homes that are problematic, they go back fairly regularly. It depends on the state of the home.

Mr. Dean: Do they use some discretion themselves on this?

Mr. Kealey: With the exception of the annual inspection; they have to do the annual inspection.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Can you give us an idea how the numbers now in the inspection branch compare with the past few years? Are we up, down or steady? There are vacancies? Even given the process of letters being written, drafted and sent to the minister and sent back, even from the normal amount of time that it takes, I get the impression they are having difficulty responding quickly. I get that impression from talking even to regional offices.

The 36 inspectors, 20 of whom are nursing, and four nutritional, are not a lot to cover 29,000 residents or whatever the number—the number of residents would be higher than that now. That is not a lot of inspectors. Maybe Mr. Gould can indicate whether he feels that number is adequate for him to carry out the responsibilities designated under the act.

Mr. Gould: There has been an increase of 10 inspectors over the past two years.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is that a net increase from before?

Mr. Gould: Yes. There is orientation and development time. There is turnover in the inspection service. The 36 inspectors allows us to provide for the complete annual relicensing inspection. That is a very important inspection because all functional areas get involved, fire safety, environmental health, nursing and dietary. Depending on what we find at that inspection, the follow-up inspections by individual functional areas take place. It is very difficult to answer specifically whether that is enough.

It relates to the situation in any particular home such as the amount of follow-up necessary and how closely we have to monitor a facility. In some instances, we find it is sufficient staff. In other instances, because of the geographic location, it requires temporarily reallocation of some resources from one regional area to the next.

Clearly, if there are vacancies at any point, that adds an additional burden. When we go through the process of trying to fill those vacancies, as Mr. Dean has pointed out, we want to make sure we are hiring staff who are appropriately qualified and experienced in long-term care. We try to ensure that they go through an orientation process that will allow us to maintain and develop our investigative skills.

As Mr. Kealey pointed out, the availability of a prosecutor on site in the nursing home branch, now with a prosecution co-ordinator as part of our orientation that we did not have two years ago, addresses the requirement to have some investigative skills that will allow us to proceed successfully in those instances where we feel we have to prosecute nursing homes.

10 a.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: One of the difficulties has to be when inspectors have to travel from one community to another—I get calls, as I assume all members do, from the staff of nursing homes. It is not unusual for them to say that they heard the inspectors were in town that morning at another nursing home. Obviously, what happens is that the inspectors come in to do an annual inspection report or whatever, and the owners of one nursing home call the owners or administrators of another one, and everyone is put on alert for the day.

When travelling from London to Windsor or Sarnia, or from wherever to wherever, surprise inspections just do not occur. I am not talking about annual inspections. I am talking about follow-up on complaints or just a drop-in to a facility.

Mr. Gould: I am glad you mentioned that because you have answered your own question about ministry staff announcing inspections. I think you very adequately explained how in some instances nursing homes may be aware an inspection could take place, but the explanation does not indicate that we announce inspections.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not think we have ever said you announce them, other than with respect to the annual inspection. Obviously, we know an annual inspection report is annual, so we know approximately when it is going to take place. We have always said the problem with annual inspections is that people have a pretty good idea of when they will happen. The reality of the situation is that nursing homes can be prepared for an inspection if they know the inspectors are going to be in the community at such and such a time.

Mr. Gould: It presents a logistical and financial problem to have an inspector in a community that is somewhat remote or out of the way. If there are two nursing homes in that community, then in one sense I do not feel we would be serving the public well if we did not cover both those facilities when we were in town.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It has happened. I have talked to Mrs. Watt many times and she will say to me, "We are going down to see Beacon Hill Lodge on such and such a date. Perhaps we can do Tecumseh Nursing Home the same day." It does happen.

Mr. Gould: When an inspector is in a community, because of the costs involved in travelling, he should not leave that community without at least perusing the other facilities. What I am saying is, yes, we would see two facilities in one community. In so far as we cannot be in two places at once, we would have to be in one before we go to the other.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is there any thought of further decentralization?

Mr. Gould: I suspect that is part of the review the consultants will be doing at the branch. They will be making recommendations dealing with the kinds of issues you are raising.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In addition to the information just given, of course there is Dr. Dorothea Crittenden and her Nursing Home Residents' Complaints Committee. Apparently it has investigated about 33 complaints. Statistics provided for me indicate it visited and reported on 133 nursing homes. It has referred nine complaints to the nursing homes branch, has received 95 inquiries and complaints in total which it looked into concerning services for the elderly, and did a total of 20 follow-up visits. In addition to inspection by the formal branch people, we have that group of individuals.

I have met Dr. Crittenden. I actually met the committee this week to talk about its work. They are busy making some suggestions as to how we can address concerns that are generated in the nursing homes. We have that formal structure plus the capabilities of our inspection branch. In addition, we have residents' councils which tend to help a little bit at the very local level, which is a formal structure. We also have a number of advocacy groups doing their own inspection and observation.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is sporadic. Some communities are well served. Unfortunately, not every community in Ontario has a branch of Concerned Friends.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is true, although in a number of communities, particularly where you have operations such as ours where we have nursing homes in a number of small communities, not large nursing homes, visitation by friends and family keeps a pretty good eye on the community and on these operations. The person being a resident is often kept well in touch with the concerns of local people, as is the case in our area. I agree that not everyone has a branch of Concerned Friends, but we are working on several different structures that respond to complaints that may develop in homes.

We have a formal ability to get to those places with inspection services that Paul has just outlined. We have the residents' complaint committee group which will be recommending certain things to me. As I said, there is also the informal, plus the community checks and balances as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I want to talk about Dr. Crittenden's committee but first I want to ask one other question on the special prosecutor. What has happened in the last couple of years—I forget the individual's name.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Lloyd Budzinski?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Right. What has been his involvement? What charges have been laid and so forth?

The other question concerns cases I have been aware of where charges have been laid against nursing homes, in addition to all the cases that were set aside pending the court decision here at Elm Tree Nursing Home. You are a lawyer, I am not. I know the number of times I would show up at court to view the proceedings and then have them put over and put over. The families and staff members were obviously very interested in the prosecutions and would continually show up only to find out that the case was being put over again. In two cases in my area it is approaching two years and we now have some court dates set up.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are these the ones outside of the Elm Tree situation?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Some of them were held up because of it. Even before the Elm Tree case they were put over and then the lawyers for the nursing homes, when they heard about the Elm Tree case waiting for the judge to make the decision, put a motion in court and suggested that theirs should also be put over. Even before that it was months without a court hearing. It seems to me it makes a farce of laying charges when it takes this long to get through the system.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no question but the Elm Tree situation caused a considerable degree of—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Even if you look at the history before that it is a real problem.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is also partly the process, as another lawyer who was with us this morning will know. That is the style of operation, the rule of law in this province. You go to court on the basis of preparation and if you have a valid reason for not proceeding, a judge adjudicates. In many cases we cannot guarantee, whether in a summary conviction situation or an indictable offence under the Criminal Code or whatever, that a particular date is going to be set on which a trial proceeds, because people can make motions to the judge asking for an extension.

I and the branch cannot be responsible for that side of it. As long as you recognize there are certain things, the rule of law and the style of operation of our judicial system, that the ministry's branch cannot be responsible for, then I think we can give some analysis as to how these cases are heard.

Perhaps Darwin has some information on the charges from a historical standpoint and he could go through that to tell you what those dates and time frames are.

10:10 a.m.

Mr. Kealey: To answer the first question you raised regarding the role of Mr. Budzinski, when he was assigned to the ministry as a special prosecutor it was not a full-time assignment. He continued his other duties with the Ministry of the Attorney General. He had been actively involved until about six weeks or two months ago. He handled the Elm Tree case for us.

The determination was made that it was imperative that we have somebody full-time to work on this matter. He worked with our director of legal services to attempt to get a replacement. They were able to recruit Mr. Marvin Morten who had experience in this area. He has now joined us and will be carrying on that work. There will be a bit of transition.

As for the question you raised the first day—how we will now deal with the outcome of the Elm Tree case—the minister has indicated the decision has been made and it is being appealed. In the meantime, we are continuing to lay charges under the act.

The history of the Elm Tree decision by Mr. Justice Steele is that the owner of Elm Tree wanted to question the validity of the act and regulations. Notwithstanding the fact that 38

charges were thrown out, 83 charges still remain against the administrator and 43 or 45 against the owner. We are not concerned from that point of view.

It was scheduled to go to court January 22 or January 23, which will probably be delayed because of the appeal process. I do not know how you get around the number of delays. It is a frustrating process for everyone involved.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It would be interesting to know how many of these were requested by the government and how many were requested by the defendant.

Mr. Kealey: To my knowledge there have not been many requests by the government. If Mr. Budzinski were handling it, he would be ready at the appointed date. But looking back through the files at other cases where there has been a request for a delay for one reason or another, we have six or nine remaining charges out of the 21 laid in 1985 that still have to go before the courts. We have five or six so far this year to go before the courts.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: How many nursing homes have had charges laid against them in 1985?

Mr. Kealey: Six.

Mr. Gould: We have sworn informations on five at this point.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What about 1984?

Mr. Gould: Sorry, I am looking at the ones that are currently active and before the courts. There are eight charges still active that were laid in 1984 and there are five active charges laid in 1985. I will have to look at the total numbers.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Are we down considerably from years past?

Mr. Kealey: We are down in a sense from 1984. That was a big year. With three more informations to be sworn, we are going to have about nine or 10 this year, which has traditionally been the norm. Part of that downturn was the transition with Mr. Budzinski not being available to us on a full-time basis after January and the arrival of Mr. Morten a month or so ago.

Hon. Mr. Elston: For the purpose of a reply to your earlier question about what the review is about, can I give you a rating of some of the scope of the review?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: And you will still file with us the terms of reference?

Hon. Mr. Elston: This will tell you the scope of the review. It will answer a number of your questions.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That would be helpful, but I would also like to get whatever went out to tender, if possible.

Hon. Mr. Elston: This is the scope of the review. The objectives are to fully examine the strengths and weaknesses of the current nursing home inspection system in Ontario, to recommend changes and to report on compliance to existing regulations by nursing homes in Ontario.

In order to achieve the stated objectives the study must at a minimum review the following subject areas:

The system of nursing home inspection which includes;

1. System objectives;
2. The basis of inspection, (a) Nursing Homes Act and, (b) regulations, existing policies, procedures and guidelines;
3. Methodologies used in inspection, (a) how inspections are carried out and (b) rating or ranking system;
4. Human resources used in the inspection system which will involve looking at (a) recruitment practices, (b) standards, (c) training, (d) accountability and (e) attitude;
5. Information systems, dealing with (a) data collection, (b) reporting and (c) information sharing with health units. This was the item I was concerned about as a result of our difficulties at the Extendicare facility in London;
6. Relationships with (a) other areas in the ministry, (b) public health units and (c) groups such as the fire department and;
7. The management reporting and decision-making processes.

The second part of the scope deals with compliance. We are going to review the current record of compliance to the Nursing Homes Act and regulations, inspection orders and other existing policies and guidelines. That covers the areas we are really concerned about with respect to developing further guidelines on quality care items which we believe provide us with some degree of flexibility, but we also want to examine how we are dealing currently with those guidelines.

That will tell us a great deal about such items as the question you raised earlier about whether or not it should be in guideline form or whether it should be specifically through regulation.

One thing you have to understand about doing regulations, and one of the things the court case really told us, is that to cover many areas in terms of regulation, in order to draft them so they cover the quality of care items, they become somewhat

more vague than you like them to be for the purposes of enforcement or prosecution through the court. We are very concerned about that item. The analysis of that part of their compliance process will tell us a great deal about how we might proceed with the entire package of amendments, etc.

The examination is also to point out weaknesses in the enforcement of compliance, develop an analysis of the role of the nursing homes branch in enforcing compliance at all organizational levels, the inspectors' level, management inside the branch at the operational level and the legal part of our corporation. We want to continue to review nursing homes' attitude to compliance, talk about the major grievances and complaints received from nursing homes and any suggestions they might have with respect to that.

There will be review with residents and with representatives of residents, which could include the group of public interest bodies you mentioned. The Concerned Friends we have mentioned on occasion are a specific example. We want to know their attitudes to compliance, talk to them about the unresolved complaints and grievances which they have and pick up their suggested changes.

From that standpoint, it is not really a public hearing process, but it is public in the sense of gathering information from those areas.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What is the mechanism that people will use in order to have input to this group?

Hon. Mr. Elston: They will probably be approached. We are getting responses to our tenders, but we are getting a proposal call which will outline how they tend to deal with that. In fairness, as well, where people have raised real concerns through our office, those will also be available to be referred to this group. There could be a series of ways of how this information might get put into this analysis.

The third area of scope deals with recommendations, which are being requested to address:

1. The weaknesses of nursing home inspection system;
2. Changes needed to ensure better compliance and;
3. Organizational implications for the nursing homes branch as a result of the above in terms of, (a) policy and program development, (b) structure, (c) resources, and (d) regulations.

10:20 a.m.

The study is not intended to be a total reworking, but it is certainly designed to give us a very thorough analysis of how we can improve

upon the whole branch and get a pretty critical analysis of the problems from the points of view of the branch and the nursing homes and the perception of the residents. We are looking at it as being a fairly thorough one, but not in the sense that we will end up having a public hearing forum, if you know what I mean. There will be an opportunity for the external people to get a lot of public input. We have not yet had the proposals—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have an update on where we are. We have discussed the call for a proposal with seven firms. There is a list here: Woods Gordon, Medicus Canada Ltd., Thorne Stevenson and Kellogg, Teasdale and Associates, and Ernst and Whinney. The good physician has written this for me. It is a little hard to decipher. They are to get back to us by December 27. Those are five of the seven. I do not have the other two names. Those people are providing us with proposals. Those are the areas in which they are supposed to provide some input.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When?

Hon. Mr. Elston: In March.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Will their report then be reviewed by the ministry and made public?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not see any reason it should not be made public. It will be reviewed by the ministry and the minister.

Mr. Chairman: To whom are they going to speak on December 27?

Hon. Mr. Elston: They will come back to the ministry branch with proposals. I may not be physically available at the ministry at the time, but I will have close working contact with the departments to whom the approaches are being made.

What we can do is get a copy of those three pages. It could be distributed. We should have the objectives too.

Mr. Dean: I do not know whether the minister intends to answer anything further on it. I have one final question, which I hope you do not consider impertinent—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Not from the member for Wentworth.

Mr. Dean: Are you upgrading the qualifications of the inspectors in their different fields—you mentioned the different fields you use—or are they the same as they have been traditionally?

Hon. Mr. Elston: One thing we are doing is making more material available to the nursing homes and hospitals and other facilities to upgrade their capabilities to train their staff. In

retraining our own inspectors, Paul, do you have anything?

Mr. Gould: As I mentioned earlier, part of the skills they are now developing is the investigative skills for the purposes of ensuring we have adequate evidence to be successful in court cases.

In addition, we have in place an extremely qualified co-ordinator consultant in nursing services, who is developing a quality assurance program that is being implemented with the inspectors to help clarify the quality assurance perspective, the nature of what we are doing at inspections and how we monitor and determine outcomes. We have some internal programs in place and being developed and implemented to upgrade the calibre of inspectors in certain skills which we feel would enhance their role.

In addition, there is a review of classification of the nurse inspector position to attract people with long-term experience and ensure they are of the quality we would like to see. We are going through a review of that and we are awaiting the outcome of that from the human resources branch.

Mr. Dean: In a sense, the qualifications one would now see in a call for applications would be different than those we might have seen three or four years ago.

Mr. Gould: Some of the qualifications, the orientation might be somewhat different, but the fundamental qualifications are the same. We want a professionally qualified registered nurse, number one. We would like to see people with long-term care experience. One has to recognize that they are inspecting an environment with people who are also qualified with a lot of experience. The inspector's role is a very difficult one under the best of circumstances. We would like to ensure that the people we are hiring have long-term care experience so they have an impact, an apparent credibility in their experience. Once we make a selection decision, we want to ensure through our own rather extensive orientation program that they are sufficiently familiar with the regulations and knowledgeable about inspections.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Since this is a forum where we have an opportunity to share concerns, is it a concern you have that they are not qualified, as a matter of curiosity?

Mr. Dean: I do not have any specific examples, but in view of the increased emphasis we are putting on quality of care and paying attention to what is needed for the residents, I

wonder if there has been a parallel increase in the talents and qualifications of the people who are hired. Mr. Gould has answered it reasonably well.

Mr. Gould: May I just make one point of clarification on the Elm Tree decision. One of the important things to understand is that the throwing out of the charges in the Elm Tree situation does not preclude us from continuing. There were two major impacts of that decision. One is that there are certain regulations the judge determined are too vague, and we cannot enforce them. The second one—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is fairly significant.

Mr. Gould: Yes. We are addressing that by trying to cite those violations when we see them under a different section of the regulation if possible.

The other very significant impact relates to who is charged when a noncompliance is cited. What we have been doing historically is charging both the administrator and the licensee. This decision has not said we cannot charge, it said that we have to charge the appropriate person.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There is great concern with staff at nursing homes that the ultimate responsibility has somewhat shifted. Now if there is a problem, such as an individual not being properly rotated in bed or moved out of the wheelchair or whatever—many charges have been laid—who is ultimately responsible? If the nursing home is filled with a lot of heavy-care residents and is understaffed, and therefore some of this work does not get done, who is ultimately responsible?

In our view it should be the licensee. However, with the decision in court, the responsibility falls on the staff, not on the licensee. That is a great concern. They have no control over the staffing levels other than the minimum levels set in the act, but at the same time, they can ultimately be held responsible under law. That is an area that is going to have to be changed. There is no way the staff should be held responsible.

Mr. Pope: I do not think it is going to be that absolute. Even with respect to civil liability, you cannot draw those absolute distinctions. That is the whole problem with the area. It does not matter what kind of amendments you make to the Nursing Homes Act, there is a potential civil liability faced by the staff. The whole issue has to be addressed in some forum other than amendments to the act. I agree it is a concern for anyone who works in a nursing home, but do not look to

amendments to the act to solve the problem, from my point of view.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The point is well made that we are not going to solve every problem with amendments, but there are certain amendments which can provide us with an easier way of doing some things in enforcement. However, to a large extent, there are suggestions about attitudes. There are also some very practical suggestions from people such as Dr. Crittenden, for instance, about how one might heighten awareness among local people about quality of care.

There is the suggestion that there are other creative ways of dealing with ensuring quality of care without trying to develop hard and fast drafting of regulations. Mr. Pope will know, as I do, that when you do hard and fast drafting, you look at the wording and then you start working from there. It becomes very difficult.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not suggesting the staff be held accountable, but I think the shift of accountability to staff as a result of the court decision is something about which we all have to be concerned. The owners have to be held accountable as well, since they control the staffing levels.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I said earlier, some of the regulations are being redrafted to include not only the administrator but also the owner. That deficiency was well pointed out. It is a change that can be made with good effect.

Mr. Pope: On the other hand, it does not matter what you do with respect to regulations unless you put absolute liability provisions in the regulations, which I do not think you can do in all fairness. You still have a defence available to the charges by shifting responsibility to a staff member, or a staff member might have a defence by shifting responsibility to the owner. So you really have not resolved the issue by your regulations unless you are going to assess absolute liability.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is a suggestion.

Mr. Pope: That is not my suggestion. That is my comment.

Mr. Gould: Charges were laid against 21 homes in the 1984 calendar year and against six homes in 1985 and there are three that are currently under appeal.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Before I go on to the structural review, I would like to ask the minister if he plans to continue with Dr. Crittenden's committee. You must be aware there are a

number of people who are not convinced this is the appropriate way to go for advocacy.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are examining it a number of ways. I met with the committee earlier this week, as I said. It made some suggestions about how we might deal with fielding concerns about local homes more quickly. Recommendations came from the committee and from other groups out in the field about what is most appropriate. If we can work towards intensifying the efforts of the residents' council, for instance, there are obvious opportunities there; providing them with a little bit more independence or whatever, heightening their opportunities, and taking a look how a community might be involved more closely where you do not have groups present such as Concerned Friends.

All those things are open and available to us to heighten community awareness of what goes on in nursing homes. We can have the residents' council a little more vigorous in its own operation, almost as an internal inspection service, if you want to look at it from that standpoint.

The Crittenden committee, which has not finalized its report, is making some preliminary suggestions to me about reasonable steps we could take to let people know there are ways of addressing concerns through the system. One could be a contact point they can get to which would tell us about earlier warnings of problems at the home. I cannot promise the committee will go on forever.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would not want that promise.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, I understand. Obviously, I am not going to terminate the committee before it comes to me with suggestions. Perhaps one of the suggestions will be something with respect to its own future. I do not know. I am quite happy to let it fulfil its mandate and report to me on what it sees as necessary changes. I fully expect some of the reports on visits to nursing homes will be of interest to the review, for instance.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I assume one of the options for advocacy you are looking at is the recommendation made by Sheila Copps in her report. It very closely parallels the recommendations we made in our report of a bill of rights and an independent advocacy agency.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I would be very interested to see a bill of rights. I received a copy of the bill of rights from a nursing home operation, which obviously has a close affiliation with—it is one I

do not think I can read extensively, but maybe I can just start off. It is entitled *Our Commitment to Residents*: "Recognizing that each resident of our nursing home is a unique individual with unique wants and needs, Extendicare is committed to ensuring that each resident..." and it goes on to list several categories. What I will do is provide a copy of this so you can analyse the wording and look at your bill. We even have the bill attached as well.

The result of the legislation you introduced obviously was to encourage the development of this bill of rights in this nursing home. The suggestions made by members are being taken seriously in various areas. In my meetings with the Ontario Nursing Home Association and with individual members, most have developed the bill of rights concept along this line. So there has been movement in that sense—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Without a statutory basis. No one will paint all nursing homes with the same brush. There are some good nursing homes out there.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, though, it seems to me they often get painted with the same brush.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Obviously, when we raise questions in the Legislature, we are not going to be raising questions of, "Are you aware that this home is great?" We are going to be holding you accountable for the ones that are not so great.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The incident that was raised by your leader with respect to the unfortunate circumstances of an owner from London, I think tended to indicate a certain style of operation of all nursing homes. It may not have been intended, I do not know, but the way the question was raised, it developed a picture that all operators were accustomed to living a certain lifestyle. That was a bit of a concern to me. I think you have to be careful, when you raise specific questions like that, that you indicate they are specifics you are dealing with and not examples of the general occurrence. Do you know what I mean?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I know exactly what you mean and you know exactly what it is like to be in opposition.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What a great experience if we could share and all learn together.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We can take a look at questions that were raised by your former health critic on nursing homes. On page 7 of the document your caucus released, *Options for Living, Directions for Change*, in June 1984, the

recommendation is very clear. The recommendation says that a bill of rights for residents in long-term care be developed immediately for introduction into legislation.

I think we are all operating on the assumption that there may be some nursing homes that have this as a guideline, but there is obviously no way of enforcing it unless it is in the legislation. I hope that is one of the directions that will be followed when we see the package.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I indicated in fairness as well, this is a situation where that particular bill of rights has been developed by a certain home, Extendicare. An analysis of our branch and our operations will determine whether guidelines or regulations should be used or whether it should be in an act. So in fairness, we are trying to figure out how some of these items can be addressed, obviously.

Mr. Pope: Are you saying your staff is now drafting amendments to the Nursing Homes Act that include a statement of a bill of rights?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not specifically got a section, but we could provide for this in the section. I guess what we will do is share a little more detail, probably later on in this session, probably the middle of February or whenever we are still sitting, depending on how quickly we proceed.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: During second reading of Bill 54 and Bill 55.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Perhaps.

Mr. Pope: So when we deal with this in March, are you—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Ha, ha.

Mr. Pope: My question is a follow-up on your statement that you were going to look at whether or not it would be dealt with by guidelines or regulations, or in the act. We are following up on that. I want to know if you are putting it in the act.

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The answer to your question is yes, we are looking at development of the guideline, and where it is going to sit. We will have to have a section in the act to provide for it.

Mr. Pope: I am sorry. I am not posing my question very well.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you mean is it going to become a part of the legislation?

Mr. Pope: Is it going to be in the law, is it going to be in the regulations, or is it going to be a guideline?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not really faced that analysis yet. That is part of the review. That is

really what I said, and we are looking at how it might best be dealt with.

Mr. Pope: Right now there is no drafting of that going on?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right, although you have an example. I provided you with an example of a bill of rights that has been developed, and there is draft legislation that could be used for discussion purposes from other sources.

Mr. Pope: I have just one last question. Can you get me for next Wednesday the number of complaints you have had about incidents in nursing homes and the number of complaints you have had, as a minister, about incidents in public hospitals? Just the number.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will see if that is possible. I will also ask my institutional assistant deputy minister to get some.

Mr. Pope: You do not have to do it right now, just for next week.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In terms of advocacy, there were recommendations made in the report of your caucus of setting up independent advocacy. Is that policy of your caucus still alive?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The Liberal Party, of course, is a living and evolving item. Certainly we will analyse the introduction of policy initiatives with respect to our review.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would hope this document—which paralleled our document very closely; in fact, it was released exactly the same day—is still relevant and the directions recommended in here, with the exception of one that we would disagree with.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Some very good and detailed material has been developed and is continuing to be developed. You have to be aware—and I do not think our ministry is different from any other—that when documents such as those are developed and information generated, they tend to pay a lot of attention to the reading and analysis of it. I think you will find that while we cannot always adopt everybody's initiatives, we work at responding to—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I just want you to adopt your own initiatives.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, we are doing the analysis of all of those items and what we can accomplish. I know about the document, having seen it and having been part of it. Perhaps I can leave it at that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have just one further comment on Dr. Crittenden's committee. I do

not know if you saw the letter that went out over Mr. Kealey's signature on May 31 to residents, administrators and members of residents' council. I have read the letter, and it adequately points out the options to residents, but it was very confusing to some residents, and specifically members of the residents' council who approached me, in that it seems to the people who raised this with me to be very bureaucratically written and very difficult for individuals to understand. It seems to encourage residents that the first step if you have concern is go to the administrator of your nursing home. The next step is to go to the nursing home inspection branch if it comes under its jurisdiction and that Dr. Crittenden only has jurisdiction in certain areas.

All this instead of writing a very simple letter that says, "If you have a problem it is your right to come to us." It would seem to me that Dr. Crittenden's committee could then make the decision of whether it should go to the inspection branch or whether it should be dealt with by themselves. It is substantially a very wordy letter and a very difficult letter for the residents. This was interpreted by the residents' council at this particular nursing home as meaning they could no longer go to their MPPs.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I would like to respond that although in some ways politicians may have concerns about the method of writing developed inside ministries or whatever, I would guess we are probably the last people to speak out of turn about whether or not people are confused about the way messages are sent out.

It is difficult to draft a statement in which you try to explain adequately how the steps should be taken in a process. I do not know that any of us has ever found a good way in attempting to dress it up to explain fully what is happening without reducing the words.

For instance, Dr. Crittenden has talked to me directly about various things for simplifying all kinds of things that could be done with complaints or whatever, but that will await a final report. She has had some musings about her visits around the province. There are good things happening even in the analyses being done as a result of requests for changes within the ministry, certainly, to make things a little more accessible and understandable for residences. It is something I am concerned about.

If this letter is confusing, maybe you, Mr. Pope and I could sit down and write a letter that was not so confusing.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: A different tack could be taken. The different tack is to encourage people who have concerns to report them instead of making it sound as if there is a process that has to be gone through, that there are people who are responsible for this and people who are responsible for that. We understand that, but I do not expect most people out there to understand the process. As long as somebody gets the complaint, that is all you really are concerned about.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is just one other point. I do not think anybody in the ministry has ever expressed to me that a complaint should not go to the MPP. It is not meant to exclude—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I know; I read the letter. When I got a copy of the letter it did not say that at all; but that is how it was interpreted.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You said you felt it excluded MPPs, and the ministry does not feel that MPPs are—

The Vice-Chairman: Are people.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is another question. They are part of the public process, there is no question; but the ministry would probably be under a bit of suspicion if it said, "Call your MPP first."

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, that is not what I am saying.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You interpreted it to mean you were excluded, but that was not the intention; that is all I am saying. I see the MPP as a very valuable assistance: as an early warning of problems that are developing if something is not functioning well or whatever.

Perhaps we could let the signer of the letter and part of the drafting team speak a little bit about the letter itself.

Mr. Kealey: There are two things. To highlight the role of the complaints committee somewhat, earlier this week it was doing a poster similar to the one the psychiatric patient advocate office uses in nursing homes.

The reason it was worded that way—unfortunately, the way it has come across is too bad—is that we were trying to differentiate between the role of this committee and that of the Compliance Plan Review Board, whose letters went out about the same time. The Compliance Plan Review Board was to look at fiscal aspects and those regulations and not get into quality. This committee was to look at those things outside the act.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The letter makes that very clear to me. All I am saying is that instead of writing to residents and indicating to them there

is this group for this and that group for that; who cares whom it comes through as long as, if there is a concern, it gets somebody's attention and the people who work for the ministry can make sure it gets to the appropriate body?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is a very good suggestion. It is certainly something I am prepared to look at.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Could you update me as to what is happening with the structural review of nursing homes, the ones that are not in compliance?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you mean the compliance review?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It started on November 18. I am not sitting in on it. I do not know what to tell you except that Mr. Ruth is proceeding with it. I am not sure how many he has heard. I know he has had more than 200 applications. Mr. Kealey has more information.

Mr. Kealey: As of November 10 it had completed hearings on 18 homes. It is doing them by region. It is doing the southwest region first, and then it will do the eastern Ontario region.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: How is it dealing with this? One of the concerns some of us have is that one method of coming into compliance is to say: "We have only 40 beds. We need another 20 beds to become economically viable and, therefore, have enough cash flow to come into compliance." This seems to be the tack that is being taken by a number of nursing homes. Franklin Lake Manor has been brought to my attention. It has 48 beds and it wants an additional 22. It says that if it gets them it can come into compliance.

I hope this is not the approach that is going to be taken. I do not know whether you have the information, but I would like to get an idea of whether that is the basic angle that many of the private operators are coming up with.

Mr. Kealey: In answer to your question, it is the angle that some of the operators are using, and that is why the number is as high as it is, 220 homes going before the Compliance Plan Review Board.

There are a couple of things. One of the board's mandates is to look at that very question, and it may wish to recommend to the minister some additional beds. We have had numerous discussions with the board to ensure there are not going to be numerous beds to give out through that process. It will be more the case of trying to

see what is required for that home to come into compliance; if there is a policy grandfathering whether it should continue or should it be corrected; and to put us in a position so that for each one of our homes we will know over a period of time, when it is finished, exactly when it will be in compliance.

Mr. Pope: I do not understand what that means. Let me pose the question a different way. You are now doing a compliance review of the nursing homes on an individual basis. Are you saying you are not going to move to enforce compliance until you have settled the policy at a later date as to what the options are going to be for compliance? What exactly are you saying?

Mr. Kealey: We are really saying that a number of homes had been grandfathered. The homes are on notice in the sense that the grandfather status is about to be removed and those homes have to be brought into compliance. There are a number of ways they may be brought into compliance. In some cases it may not be a major structural change that would have to take place.

Mr. Pope: What is the compliance policy under which you are operating?

Mr. Kealey: The current act and regulations.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What is the policy? If a home is not in compliance and it says it cannot do it economically, what approach is the ministry taking?

Mr. Kealey: It is looking at two things. It is looking at both the actual regulations and the situation as regards compliance. For example, if a number of homes have a problem with the height of the window, whether it is 18 inches from the floor or whatever, the ministry may very well take the position that it is a matter of regulation that should be changed, period.

In a number of other cases, though, it may come back and say that the width of the doors is such that wheelchairs cannot get through or whatever. If a number of homes or a few homes have been grandfathered, in that case they have to be dealt with. The ministry will look at the idea that this home will have to be brought into compliance. It may not be tomorrow, but it is getting the message that, for example, if that home were to be sold, we would not allow that home to continue. In a sense, it is not saleable unless it is brought into compliance.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Let us assume the home is not sold, because obviously if the home cannot be sold because it is not in compliance it is not

going to be sold. What are you going to do with the present owners?

Mr. Kealey: That is the basis of the board's mandate. It will be coming back to make recommendations to the minister on how to deal with various homes.

Mr. Pope: So it is not doing anything except make recommendations to the minister. That does not answer Mr. Cooke's basic question: how are the homes being brought into compliance? All we have so far is that they are going back to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Some of the recommendations may provide us with information about how they can be brought into compliance.

Mr. Pope: All right. Let us take the second group of homes Mr. Kealey talked about, where it is clear that the doors have to be widened to get wheelchairs through. The operator says, "I cannot afford to do that," and it is clear from the review of his economic statement that he cannot do it; or it may be that he can.

In either case, what are you then going to do? Are you negotiating now, or do you have any plans to negotiate, some sort of compliance capital fund with the nursing home operators?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not talked to them about a compliance capital fund.

Mr. Pope: Getting back to Mr. Cooke's question, what happens when there is an order for the doors to be widened and it is clear from the information that an operator cannot afford to do it? Then I will put the other situation to you where he can afford to do it, but is not prepared to do it.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Does this committee actually have access to all the financial records of the nursing home?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Perhaps I can ask Mr. Gould what they have had to file with respect to their request for review.

Mr. Gould: The committee has asked the nursing home operator to supply whatever information the committee feels would allow it to make a decision with respect to what it would be advising or recommending to the minister. The committee has not specifically asked for financial information, but is asking for that in keeping with the submission of the operator if it feels that information would be helpful. That is up to the operator.

Mr. Pope: If a nursing home operator in his compliance review makes the case that he cannot afford it, then it is up to him to submit the evidence to the compliance review committee

that that is true. Do you have an auditor reviewing that financial information?

Mr. Gould: The Compliance Plan Review Board has its own resources and I am not in a position to indicate how the board assesses that information or the nature of what it might be advising or recommending to the minister.

As far as the operational impact with respect to the policy of the ministry is concerned, the policy is for compliance. That is reflected in the fact that from the inspection perspective we are no longer identifying items as being deferred. The structural noncompliances that are being observed are now being identified as structural noncompliances.

Mr. Pope: You are ending the grandfathering, you are having a compliance review mechanism and one of the defences is they cannot afford to bring the home into compliance. What I hear you saying is that the response of the review committee, if that is the case, will be that it will delay compliance as opposed to making capital available in the way it is with hospitals to bring them into compliance with respect to extended care beds.

Mr. Gould: I do not believe the review committee has made any response.

Mr. Pope: So there is no response?

Mr. Gould: The review committee is going through an extensive orientation. When they commence their hearings they will be making a response on a regional basis. They will be making recommendations to the minister.

Mr. Pope: So now, after 15 minutes, we have come around full circle. I would like to ask the minister, what is the policy going to be for those nursing homes that cannot comply because of their financial situation?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have some situations now where there will be recommendations that their financial capabilities be enhanced to comply. The addition of beds, for instance, may make a renovation economically practicable. In those situations we will have to take that recommendation and see what might happen.

In situations where I get a recommendation from Mr. Ruth that nothing can make them financially viable, I will have to deal with those on an individual basis. What I am basically saying is that I do not have a policy for that circumstance, and I openly admit that at this stage.

With certain parts of the compliance, if you are talking about having a window under the regulation at 18 inches or whatever and it is 22.5,

the recommendation may be, "Why would you bother having a person spend an extremely large amount of money for the sake of a four inch decrease in the length?" We are going to have to deal with those types of recommendations on an ad hoc basis. I cannot conceive of a policy that is going to deal with what could be some pretty specific situations.

11 a.m.

You will know from visiting some of the nursing homes in the outlying areas the variation in the buildings available to accommodate nursing home patients.

Mr. Pope: I am worried about both ends of the issue, from the point of view of the clients in the nursing homes and from the point of view of the operators. There is no certainty on what the ground rules are going to be at the end of the compliance review process. Everyone is going to have expectations that in one way or another are going to be frustrated or disappointed, and unfortunately it is all going to come back on your shoulders if there is no policy that everyone sees at the front end of the process.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can say this much, that in terms of expectations some operators have gone through the process for the sole purpose of expanding their licensed bed capabilities. I can tell those people there are not enough beds to be allocated through this process to meet all the requests for beds. If people are going to be frustrated with that, I am going to have to bear that. You will be aware that the number of requests I get for extra beds, even from members in various communities, is extremely high. Apart from that, 220 now are applying for review. I do not know what percentage of applicants is hoping for extra beds, but I do not have 2,200 beds to be allocated if they each ask for 10.

Mr. Pope: Is there anyone in the ministry who is working on it; or are you working on or considering a policy that would have an emergency compliance capital fund being made available on a one-time basis of economic need?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not, and I said before that I have not considered a compliance capital fund.

Mr. Dyer: That was reviewed at one time, and the thought was that if finances were required to bring the homes into compliance to make them viable, rather than give them straight money to do that the funding should be provided by way of gaining service from the home. That is why you would award additional beds. You get service through those beds. You do not give them blank

cheques. If you give them additional beds, the community gets service for the beds. The finances or revenue from the beds would pay for the compliance. It is a two-way street. Giving a home a blank cheque is not thought to be the most attractive option if you are trying to bring that home into compliance, because you want to get service for the money you give the home.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On the other hand, many of the nursing homes that have not been in compliance have known since the legislation was brought in that eventually they were going to have to come into compliance. A logical question, since they were not in compliance with the act, is why they were not setting aside capital through their own revenue, so that one day they would come into compliance. I am not sure the ministry should be playing the role of having to inject more money, whether in operating capital through increased beds in the private profit sector, or through direct grants in order to bring someone into compliance with a law that has been around for 13 years.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, you have to take a look at the needs in the community. That is another part of that whole question. You cannot just give a home 10 beds for the purpose of making it look like a viable operation to bring it into compliance if there is no need in the community. That is part of the whole program; there also has to be a need to be addressed.

Mr. Kealey: To correct one thing, the law that has been around for 13 years has allowed for certain items to be grandfathered, as a matter of law. It is not a matter that they were sitting around knowing that some homes should be brought into compliance. At the time, the law specifically provided—for example, one of the regulations says if the home is built after April 1972 and it has more than one floor, it must have at least one elevator. That was grandfathered. If that home was structured before 1972 and it did not have an elevator, it was grandfathered. There are cases we are dealing with now where everyone accepts that it is probably in everyone's best interest in terms of support to the patients to ensure that the homes do have elevators.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When did the compliance review start?

Mr. Kealey: It was announced nine months to a year ago, but the actual hearings only began three weeks ago, on November 18. Prior to that, they spent a lot of time visiting homes, looking at other institutions, going through the legal preparation and spending time with the planning

officials so they would have some concept of how they were going to deal with it. It is not only the compliance in each home, although that is one part of it. The other part is to make recommendations on how those regulations and the act might be changed.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would hate to see the government subsidizing private operators to come into compliance with the act. That is the responsibility of the owners of the private profit nursing homes.

In direct relation to this, there were 4,500 beds promised by your ministry and 2,500 by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. I will not ask you about the latter beds, but what is the status of the 4,500 beds? Are you considering or have you imposed, as was indicated at one point by the Premier (Mr. Peterson), a moratorium until policy decisions had been made on the allocation of for-profit beds?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There has not been an allocation of any of the 4,500 beds. They have been held in review.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is your expectation that none of the beds will be allocated to the for-profit sector until there is a report from Mr. Van Horne and a policy decision?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There may be a need for some beds. We are working on beds that were allocated in December 1984. There were some left that were never allocated. There were 300, or a few more, that were not allocated. We are working up an analysis of requests for nursing home beds that have been received, for instance, from various members who are trying to address community needs.

It may be that we will want to have some of those 4,500 announced beds available to address community needs. I cannot promise we will await a final report from Mr. Van Horne if there are community needs we feel have to be addressed.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is there not the possibility that those beds could be allocated to the not-for-profit sector and that the moratorium the Premier promised on for-profit beds would still be followed?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have indicated that not-for-profit groups will have an equal opportunity at responding to calls for proposals, but I cannot promise that all those beds will go to the not-for-profit sector. In some areas of the province where the availability of not-for-profit interest is absent, where we do not have a large number of beds to deal with, it may be that the

only calls or proposals we receive will come from for-profit people.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Those might be the places to look for a different alternatives, like group homes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is always a possibility, but if there is a need now to keep people in a community—and I look at that as one of the things I like to reflect upon—I am quite willing to address community needs on that basis as well. In the sense that we have to develop a group home concept and a group home policy, maybe the needs of the community require us to address that sooner rather than later.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There are other alternatives. If the community is in desperate need, or there is a recommendation from the health council that it desperately needs 50 additional extended care beds, that might be a perfect area to have a pilot project based on the model of the adult service protection workers.

If we start looking at people who advocate for seniors and plug in all the community resources available to keep them in the community, we could allocate the money that would normally go to extended care into those kind of services and pilot projects and see how successful that is.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There are a lot of opportunities available to us, Dave. I cannot disagree with you on those at all. When we put our calls for proposals out, we clearly reflected an indication that no applicants will be disadvantaged because they happen to be not for profit. There will be an equal opportunity to respond. If people want to respond in a creative fashion or whatever fashion with respect to providing service for seniors, we will examine it.

I cannot absolutely promise you that we will not issue beds to profit operators. I cannot do that, because it is not practical.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You could do that. If you put out calls for tenders on nursing home beds, you are not going to get a proposal for a different alternative; whereas if you see an identified need and say, as a ministry, that need in that community can be met in the not-for-profit sector in a different way, then you will be sending a very powerful signal out to the community. You will also have the opportunity to experiment with some other alternatives that, in the long run, we are going to have to use anyway.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We do have the long run and the short term. There are certain needs that have to be addressed in the short term. I am aware

of the opportunities and options that are available, but certain needs have developed now in the communities. I know that you, for instance, and a good many members around the province, have addressed letters to me on behalf of nursing homes, saying, "We need these beds in these communities to allocate to those people."

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have not written any letters that have advocated more extended care beds, unless someone has written a letter on my behalf and signed my signature.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can bring you a letter if you would like to review it, perhaps next week. I will bring forward that letter in which you suggested that beds go to a private operator.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to look at that letter.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Would you? I will do that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am trying to think of the circumstance. I do not know.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually you wrote about a nursing home that you also raised questions about in the House. In November 1984 you wrote a letter indicating that improvements had arrived at that facility—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You are talking about November 1984.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I realize that, but it is being used by an operator now as an indication that you support expansion of his facility.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would love to look at that letter. I can indicate that since the new government has been in place and since our report has come out there has been no advocacy on our part or on my part as Health critic for more extended care beds.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have received letters from members of all parties on behalf of a particular for-profit establishment in one of our large cities for an expansion of 65 beds. They came from all parties.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The problem is that until those alternatives are offered to members and to communities, the only alternative that is seen is to add on to the extended care system.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The pressures that are placed on me, as minister, are generated from members in relation to a particular facility—I might as well tell you—in Hamilton. Three members of the New Democratic Party have written endorsements of it, two of them without disclaimers. One said: "I am writing to ask for the beds to be fully licensed. I would prefer not for profit, but license these ones anyway."

Those letters written to me are a response to what is felt in that community to be a real need. It is an indication that those people, as representatives of that community and other communities right across the province, feel that extended care beds are needed now.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Unless alternatives are available, the pressures on extended care are going to continue.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is a different argument. I am well aware of available options that will help us to address some longer-term situations. Without looking at party affiliation, as a group, many of the 125 members in this province—I have not received letters from everybody and I am not trying to say that—are indicating what they see to be a real need in their communities.

There is apparently consensus in communities that there is an need for extended care beds. Without refusing to recognize that in the longer term there are options available, those letters are saying to me there is a need now.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We can continue to argue the point, but the fact is that every dollar that is put into extended care is no longer available for community-based services. If the response from the minister was, "Yes, there is a need for extended care beds in X community but we think that need can be met by doing this," I do not think you would have any complaints. I know you would have no complaints from our caucus. We would much prefer to see that alternative put in place than an expansion of the extended care program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I am receiving are letters that boldly say we need extended care beds.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is because no innovative alternatives have been put in place and advocated by the ministry in the past. Now is the time to change direction.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No; I think the letters are written to me after an analysis. Those letters would have said if they wanted alternatives. What they are reading is a genuine need for extended care beds. The letters say, "There is a need in our communities for beds." It could be that the need will be reduced by having options that will be implemented. Certainly Ron Van Horne's study will probably outline some of the areas in which we can move.

I want to underscore the fact that people who are elected to represent communities are telling me there is a genuine need.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I remember having a discussion with you several months ago in which I said those pressures are going to continue until the alternatives are put in place.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right, but as a minister, I also have to address the pressures people feel in their communities. If there is a need, I cannot refuse to meet the realistic needs of communities.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It depends on how you want to meet them. You can meet them through extended care or you can meet them with other alternatives.

Mr. Pope: On the basis of your discussion with Mr. Cooke, do you agree there is a need? If you do, how long is the moratorium on the 4,500 beds going to continue?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are working at finalizing the needs that are being generated. Of course, they are also complicated by the compliance review. In some cases we will have a double analysis, if you will, because we are hearing as we go along the southwestern region now—where does the southwestern region extend from by the way, do you know?

Mr. Gould: All the way from Windsor.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Starting where?

Mr. Gould: Starting west of Kitchener.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are doing that area of beds and analysing compliance. In that sense, we will be looking as well at the needs in those communities. I can say we will not be waiting for the entire compliance review to address the needs of communities for beds.

Mr. Pope: When is your moratorium going to come off? It has been on for six months now. The Peterson moratorium, or whatever it is called. I do not know what it is called.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think it has an official name in that sense, Alan. All I can tell you is we are working on looking at the 300 beds which were not allocated from last December. In addition, I am looking at what the other needs might be and we should soon have an indication of where we are moving with any extra needed beds. It will not be, however, an allocation of 4,500.

Mr. Pope: You are reducing the 4,500.

11:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I suspect there will be a reduction of that to let us work with some of the options, for instance, that people have suggested we provide: the home care, for instance, to which we are trying to co-ordinate a better response,

even now. I do not think there will be a lifting of the moratorium on a number of the 4,500 beds. We will not end up with the 4,500 beds that were announced in April of this year.

Mr. Pope: You are going to reduce the number of beds from 4,500?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is pretty apparent.

Mr. Pope: So you do not agree with the quantity aspects of the pent-up need for nursing home beds. I do not follow the logic of the last half hour. That is my problem. You cite the letters of the members calling for all these new nursing home beds. On the other hand, you have a moratorium you indicate you are not prepared to lift. You are saying now that it will be fewer than 4,500 beds. Which side of the issue are you on?

Hon. Mr. Elston: All I am saying is there is an obvious reflection through the members' letters there are needs for extended care beds. Our analysis has not shown at this stage that the 4,500 beds are needed. What we are looking at as well in the short term is trying to respond to some of those community needs.

Mr. Pope: According to the analysis, how many beds are needed?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have not finally completed that, and some of the results of Mr. Van Horne's study will tell us a little more about the number that will ultimately be required. We are looking at some of the options that have been pointed out by Mr. Cooke, the opportunities available to co-ordinate services in the community through that study.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What is the cost of 4,500 beds per year?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Is it about \$16,000 per bed per year?

Mr. Kealey: About \$10,000.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is about \$10,000 per bed per year.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is \$10,000 times 4,500: \$45 million. That would be four times what was added to the ministry's budget for senior citizens community-based services in the last budget.

Hon. Mr. Elston: If I am not mistaken, the 4,500 beds—Mr. Pope will be clearer on this than I—was a five-year program, was it not, when the announcement was made?

Mr. Pope: Yes; but your staff has no doubt briefed you on the timing of the introduction of the beds. There was a lot of front-end on the 4,500 because there was a realization of the

pent-up need. I guess I cannot get from you the flow of new beds because you are not at that stage yet, which I think is a problem.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. Pope: To follow up: there has been too long a delay. There may be political necessities for an internal review or someone in the Premier's office has to get a handle on this, but you cannot say that you agree with the pent-up demand, that on the one hand the pent-up demand has to be acted upon and that you are not going to do it on the other.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No; in fairness, we have not said that.

Mr. Pope: Let us go through a couple of numbers. Are there \$2.4 million in your budget for the introduction of the 509 beds previously announced, previous to December 1984?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I presume that was probably budgeted for, but let me get the exact answer.

Mr. Kealey: I do not have that in front of me. Forget when the beds are announced, what we have to look at is when they come on and are licensed. We still have beds coming on that were announced three, four, or five years ago.

Mr. Pope: Let me give you all the numbers and you can confirm whether or not this is true.

Is there the money, \$2.4 million, for the introduction of 509 beds previously announced? If that money is there, how many of those 509 beds have gone to proposal call? Is there the amount of \$1.1 million in your estimates for the introduction of 158 of the 400 beds announced in December 1984; and \$2 million in your estimates for the remainder of the 1,570 beds requested during 1984-85?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Can I get you a response to that. The deputy minister tells me he does not believe the \$2.4 million is put in the budget until those beds are anticipated to come on stream.

Mr. Pope: Your budget estimates your needs for the year based on a prediction of how many new beds are going to be called for proposal during the year and put into service. Are the 509 beds being put into service on March 18? Are the 509, the 158 and the 1,570 beds all in this budget; or more correctly, have they been taken out of the budget? If so, why have they been taken out? If they are in the budget, have proposal calls been placed for them?

Mr. Kealey: Are you asking about the 500 beds that had been announced for the 1982-83 fiscal year?

Mr. Pope: Yes; 509.

Mr. Kealey: As of December 1, 1985, 334 of those beds were licensed and in operation; 166 had been awarded and will be in operation as soon as either the renovation or construction is completed.

Mr. Pope: When were they awarded? Was it this year?

Mr. Kealey: No. They were awarded about two years or a year and a half ago.

Mr. Pope: Are they coming in this year?

Mr. Kealey: They are under construction or renovation.

Mr. Pope: The 334 beds might have been existing additional capacity that you were able to license.

Mr. Kealey: Some may have been. It may not have been wholly a new building program.

Mr. Pope: What about the 158 beds of the 400, the \$1.1 million?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Only 100 of those were actually put out, as I recall. That is where we have 300 left over, as I advised earlier. If you want to talk about the other 100, we can give you the breakdown.

Mr. Kealey: This is in addition to 400 beds approved for 1984-85. As of December 1, 59 of them are licensed and in operation, 39 have been awarded and will be in operation as soon as the renovation or construction is completed, and the 300 beds to which the minister referred are waiting.

Mr. Pope: Have they been caught in the moratorium?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We expect to be dealing with them relatively soon.

Mr. Pope: Does that mean the \$2-million item earmarked for the 1985-86 allocation towards the remainder of the 1,570 beds requested during 1984-85 is put on hold?

Dr. Dyer: You just do not receive the money.

Mr. Pope: Therefore, \$2 million is taken out of the budget for that.

Dr. Dyer: It never was in the budget. The finances are never put in the budget until the beds actually come on stream.

Mr. Pope: The estimates are your estimated expenditures for the current 1985-86 financial year. There is a \$2-million item. Is it out?

Dr. Dyer: No.

Mr. Kealey: We have that. We put it in in anticipation of bed needs, and not only for that; some of them were from previous years.

Mr. Pope: You are saying the 300 beds and anything left over from the 1,570 beds requested during 1984-85 have not been proceeded with, although there may be money in the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In addition, the deputy reminds me the estimates also anticipate the coming on stream of beds that were allocated several years before.

Mr. Pope: Is that the 166 and 334?

Dr. Dyer: Yes, and the 59.

Mr. Pope: The 59 funded, and the 39 awarded will start to flow.

Dr. Dyer: When they come on stream.

Mr. Pope: When are you going to move on the 300?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Very soon.

Mr. Pope: What calls for proposals went out during the current financial year?

Mr. Kealey: We have not moved any calls for proposals.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Pope: There have been no calls for proposals since April or May.

Mr. Kealey: There have not been any since more than a year ago. Mr. Norton awarded some beds in November. I think he may have gone to a ward or two, but there have been none since then.

Mr. Pope: Do you have any idea of a more specific date when the 300 are going to come on?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There should be something in early January. In fact, we have some things in the works now for certain areas with respect to those 300 beds. I suspect that by the time we get back here in January, proposals will have been worked up. We are very close to working on some of those 300 even now.

Mr. Pope: I have to restate my concern, at least with respect to the 300 beds. Although I do not have any personal knowledge of this, I have to presume the 400 beds are justified, based on the pent-up demand that so many members are writing about, and 300 of the 400 now have been placed on hold for six months.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually, they have been on hold since December 1984. They were not allocated even between December and the end of June. They have not been allocated.

Mr. Pope: The logical reason for it up until May was the budget processes of the government, settling the estimates and getting the allocations into the estimates. Since May, when those estimates were finalized through Manage-

ment Board of Cabinet, there has been no action on the 300.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Some of those beds were announced by the then minister, even before December. He obviously did not have a problem allocating some of them. I do not know why, but he did allocate some in November. Then we had the announcement in December. I do not know why he did not go ahead and do the others.

Mr. Pope: The fact is that the money for those 300 beds is allocated in your estimates, and they have not been moved on. I have to voice my concern about that. I understand the reasons for it. I am asking that you perhaps communicate with whomever is involved in this review to try to expedite it because we have 300 beds, for which money has been allocated in the estimates, that are not being moved on.

While we can have arguments among ourselves about nonprofit versus profit, the fact is there is the pent-up demand you referred to that all members are writing to you about, and no action is taking place on it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are responding on those 300 beds and it is quite close; I can tell you that. With respect to the analysis, the other is coming to an end as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Our disagreement goes beyond just whether it is profit or nonprofit. The longer the moratorium, the more satisfied we will be. There are other ways of providing—

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am quite willing to yield the floor to Mr. Pope and Mr. Cooke to have a thorough analysis here and now.

Mr. Pope: No. You are the minister and we are here to ask you questions. We will have our debate at another time.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a final question in the area of nursing homes. It deals with access by advocacy groups.

It has been reported to me that the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded was denied access to facilities of Community Nursing Homes Ltd., one of which is Sunnysdale, that Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities has had difficulty getting into some nursing homes, and that the service co-ordinator in the north continues to have difficulty getting into some facilities.

This matter has been brought to the attention of Mr. Gould and Mr. Kealey, but there still seems to be a problem. I would like to know what is being done and whether one of the areas of amendment to the regulations or legislation is going to guarantee access to advocacy groups.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have met on more than one occasion with Concerned Friends. We obviously have lots of correspondence and I meet frequently with Mr. Gould and Mr. Kealey. We are aware of that problem and we are addressing it in our amendments to the Nursing Homes Act. We are aware of that problem and we address it in our amendments to the Nursing Homes Act. We are aware of it. You have not raised a new issue.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Perhaps this is connected to that. In my experience I have seen a fair number of staff members who have expressed concerns about the operations they work in. There was an incident when the former government was in power. Two staff members at a nursing home north of Toronto were suspended and another one was fired. It eventually went to arbitration. Some of the matters were settled in arbitration.

None the less, they had to go through this rather disgusting process. Their concerns were meant simply to express problems at the nursing home to both the medical officer of health and the nursing homes inspection branch. They expressed their concerns to an opposition party which raised them publicly at a press conference. They did not feel the concerns had been adequately dealt with.

Is any thought being given to an amendment to the act which would guarantee staff members who complain to the nursing homes inspection branch would be free from retaliation by the owners of the nursing homes?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is always a concern when you take a look at that. I know we addressed that when we were dealing with the proposed environmental bill of rights, which was introduced by Stuart Smith. It is the question of when can you provide protection for people who, in that case, provided information about violations of environmental regulations in law? It is a concern I have to wrestle with. We are discussing a whole series of issues. We have talked to some advocacy groups about this issue.

I have not been able to determine how to implement that. I have not come to a final decision on how that might be dealt with. However, I am willing to discuss it.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have met with a lot of members of staffs of different nursing homes in my own area and other places. It is a real problem. It would be much easier if I was able to say to the nursing homes inspection branch, when staff members come to me with specifics: "Talk to so-and-so who works at the home. He is willing to talk to you." However, that is not what normally happens. People usually say: "I will

talk to you, Mr. Cooke, if you keep my name confidential. I am worried about being fired." Many of the nursing homes in this province are not unionized. They do not even have the protection of a union.

There will have to be protection if you want to build accountability into the system—which I think you do—and if you want participation by staff members. Otherwise, staff members will continue to be intimidated by management.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is difficulty when you talk about something like this. It is a matter of deciding which balances you will strike in the legislation. How do you put those things into legislative form? I do not think there is disagreement among any of the parties from a policy standpoint. We like to be able to have people tell us of difficulties and violations in the operation, especially if they are being directed by management people.

It is easier to talk about putting a legislative response together than it is to actually put the response together. It often causes difficulties. I am aware of that side of the problem. I receive letters from staff people as well and have requested that follow-ups, or inspection runs, be made as a result of those letters.

11:40 a.m.

One person had already been dismissed in one case about which I received a letter. It was a question of interpreting whether or not the dismissal had occurred as a result of continual complaints or difficulties—which resulted in dismissal and then complaints—that had grown before. I do not know how to respond in detail to your concern, because we all realize that you have to strike balances in the operation of these facilities.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Except that I would rather err on the side of encouraging staff to participate than on the side that there may be frivolous complaints or that staff members would use the system to deal with their labour-management concerns.

On Bill 70, the occupational health and safety bill, everybody was concerned that the right to refuse work would be abused. My understanding from you and from previous ministers is that the right to refuse has not been abused, and I think we should assume that this type of protection also will not be abused by staff of nursing homes. If it became a major problem or if it were being used as a tool for debate with management and for labour discussions, then you would have to take another look at it. However, at this point I would rather err on the side of making people feel

comfortable in reporting problems than on the side of their refusing to do so because of fear of retaliation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will expand the conversation a little bit with respect to the activities of staff. In my part of the province, the riding of Huron-Bruce, the staff in a number of the nursing homes take considerable pride in the fact that they are serving people they know, and they are very involved in the delivery of care to those people. I do not sense the same feeling of concern.

I am thinking of nursing homes with 30 or 35 beds. The largest number of beds we have is probably Saugeen Villa, which would have about 80. In the smaller communities, certainly, the people I am familiar with—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: These are locally owned nursing homes?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. The staff are quite involved with the people. It is perhaps a different style from that of the larger—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is probably true. One of the methods of accountability in small-town Ontario is that the nursing home is owned locally, and if it were poorly run, the owners would probably be run out of town. There is neighbourhood accountability in that type of system that does not exist when the owner is a shareholder along with many other shareholders.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You can try to legislate a lot of things, but community interaction with these service providers has proved to be a very effective tool. It is one of the reasons I am looking at how we can heighten the work of those residents' councils in the homes for instance, in perhaps developing some kind of community response not only to the nursing home but also to the services provided out of nursing homes and services provided to elderly citizens of the province in their communities.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There is one question I missed and it had to do with the Extendicare London Nursing Home. I do not want to go into a great deal of detail; we have done that in the House already. I gather the coroner's inquest has been set for February. I saw a small press clipping in the London Free Press where that was reported.

Is there any decision yet on whether charges are going to be laid against this home on the basis of the report you had from Dr. Styliadis and the serious violations in the kitchen area after the outbreak had already occurred? Is there any

indication that charges are going to be laid? Have you had any other thoughts on a public inquest?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No decision has been made with respect to those charges yet. I have not changed my response to the public inquiry at this time. We are getting close to a date. I have just been informed that February 24 appears to be the date for the inquest, and I am going to wait for the results of that, obviously.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When that report came down—I forget the number of violations; I had it in my file—many concerns were listed. A number of people had already died. Obviously, there were concerns about the ministry's own inspection branch since it was out of that incident that the minister announced his external review of the nursing homes inspection branch. Does the minister not consider, based on those reports, that it would have been appropriate to use the legislation to take over that nursing home temporarily?

Dr. Styliadis's report was rather devastating on the home, I thought. I am sure the minister must have been upset when he read the report; yet to date, no charges have been laid and there was no any action by the minister to take over the facility even when there had been 18 deaths.

Hon. Mr. Elston: My concern was that we should move quickly to ensure that the outbreak did not spread. It was directed towards the people in that home. When I started looking at it, I could not see how, by the time we were advised, we as a ministry would have facilitated any better response to prevent the spread of the disease in taking over that home.

I felt we had to ensure that we prompted action to isolate and deal with running down the cause of the outbreak. We did that effectively once we were fully available. I still feel that the decision to work in a co-operative manner was probably the best one. The people worked very hard to implement a number of the requests that Dr. Korn was able to prescribe, and those from Dr. Carlson and others of the team who went down there.

The reason I announced my external review was that I was concerned about co-ordination of efforts as much as anything else, and with the reports that ultimately came out of there. I have to acknowledge I was concerned about that.

Mr. Pope: May I have a supplementary to that?

Mr. Chairman: Sure.

Mr. Pope: I do not understand why, as of today, the minister has made no decision on

whether or not to lay charges. Can he explain that to me?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Basically, we have not received all the details needed. Information could be generated through my branch. It has not come to my attention yet. I do not know if we need any further studies, but I will let you know whether there is any thought at this point on a final analysis of the data generated. I suspect that there has not been any finalization of that.

Mr. Pope: If you are on the verge of doing something, just tell me and I will back out of it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not on the verge. I am not analysing reports or anything like that.

Mr. Pope: I do not understand. We are talking about a real tragedy—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: And it is now three months later.

Mr. Pope: It is three months later and for some reason the minister has not yet at his disposal information which would allow him to make the fundamental decision on criminal responsibility. I do not understand that, nor do I understand the processes that would lead to that situation. I would like from somebody an explanation of the process that has led us to the place we are today. It is December 11 and a decision on whether to lay charges still has not been made.

11:50 a.m.

Mr. Kealey: Paul Gould is indicating to me that they had a discussion with Dr. Putnam and the local health unit in London as well. There was a question of whether there would be grounds to lay a charge. The public health unit and the nursing inspection service had inspected. Nothing came out of those inspections that you could use as a basis to lay charges. Most of the discussion has centred on the Styliadis report, which was done subsequent to the inspection by the local public health unit and by our own branch.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The nursing home administrator said he accepted that report.

Mr. Kealey: He accepted the report in so far as during that period they put together the central management committee is concerned. They met every night and the administrator was on the committee that Dr. Korn chaired, as was the local medical officer of health and others. So in a sense he accepted it from the point that was presented.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The London Free Press quotes him as saying that Dr. Styliadis had made his report; he is an expert; the report is accepted.

The only person who disputed the report was the assistant medical officer of health.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, I would have to say the assistant medical officer of health was one. As well, there was a letter from somebody in the corporation who was concerned about the report. If I am not mistaken, it also was the subject matter of a press release by Extendicare.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They will accept it if the report was made public.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They also made some other comments about it. So I can tell you expressions have been made other than by the assistant medical officer of health.

Mr. Pope: If I could get back to the process again, the minister appears to indicate that nothing in the health unit's report and nothing in the nursing home report indicated any basis. So we are now left with Dr. Styliadis's report. When was that report issued?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: September 20.

Mr. Pope: We are talking about a cloud hanging over that home and those administering it and a cloud of concern hanging over the victims' relatives. Since September 20, nothing seems to indicate this matter has moved on to a desk for some final determination about laying charges. I am not trying to predict one way or the other about which way you should move. I just do not understand the process that would let that happen.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It sounds to me as though the minister has made a decision. Based on staff comments, it sounds to me that the health unit and the nursing homes inspection branch looked at the facility. They could not find anything against which charges could be laid. Therefore, even though Dr. Styliadis's report was devastating, it is being disregarded and charges will not be laid. Obviously, if charges were going to be laid, they would have been laid earlier than three months after the outbreak.

I find it incredible that when 18 people die, one could really question what happened at the local level, even though some quick action was taken once the minister became aware of it at that level. No public inquiry or charges resulted. All we get is a coroner's inquest—not all that unusual in even single deaths at nursing homes on occasion—and no charges against the home. I find it absolutely incredible and a horrible message to nursing homes in this province.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, with regard to this inquest, we can all agree those people's deaths were a tragedy. Obviously, the inquest

will be of a more thorough nature than some others in the form in which they have been presented earlier. I am interested in the report of that coroner's inquest.

One of the things I did not want to do with respect to opening up a public inquiry at the same time the inquest was going on, was to have people running around, perhaps running into each other, to find out what was going on. I thought that might cause difficulties for both.

As indicated earlier, I have not ruled out a major public inquiry, but I am waiting to review what happens at the coroner's inquest.

The comments with respect to the process are received. I can certainly speak to staff and find out what can be done to address the problems the critic has indicated.

Mr. Pope: Can we leave it this way? This is pretty damned fundamental stuff. Can the minister tell us by next week where this decision is in the ministry and why it has not been expedited beyond where it now is?

I would like to ask two questions. First, is the minister saying that he may withhold the decision to lay or not lay charges until after the inquest? Is that what he is saying now as opposed to making a decision immediately?

Second, subsequent to an inquest, will the minister still consider a public inquiry, depending on the findings arising from the inquest?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We may find, as has been indicated, that the inquest did not delve into certain areas of operation, for instance. It might be of benefit to us to have an inquiry. I would like to maintain the opportunity.

Mr. Pope: You are holding your options back on that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. I have found—and probably you will too—having analysed the way inquests have developed in this province, that some inquests are very thorough indeed and get into a number of areas that traditionally have not been viewed as inquest areas. They get into a number of policy types of analysis as well. It may be a very full inquest in that sense, so you can understand that part of it.

Mr. Pope: Is a decision being made on charges before or after the inquest is being held? And why?

Hon. Mr. Elston: In many ways the thoroughness of that study, in addition to the information we have, could provide us with extra information. I do not know that the analysis we have at this point is the basis for charges going

forward. I can report back next week. I would like to have my options available.

Mr. Pope: I know. I think we are talking about a real tragedy and that we should know by next week whether you are prepared to make a decision and why this matter has been delayed for three months. Second, we should know whether you have come to a conclusion, based on internal advice, to withhold a decision on laying charges until after the inquest, and if so, why. That has implications on a number of investigative matters within the ministry. I will leave that with you.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Another thing that may be of help would be to have Dr. Korn come in and talk to us. I guess Mr. Cooke is not going to be here this afternoon, but perhaps I can arrange to have Dr. Korn come in next week and talk a little bit on that.

Mr. Pope: I really think that what we want to hear—I know how these things work. Maybe next week you can just tell us some of the answers to these questions.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We would like to know what has happened in the last three months. We would like a detailed response of what has happened and how it was looked at.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Even at the time that this event was unfolding, as it did tragically, a lot of the investigative work was done, by the very nature of the outbreak, by projecting backwards from a statistical analysis. It is a very difficult area in which to get concrete material.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Has a special prosecutor been involved?

12 noon

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is legal counsel, but I cannot say a special prosecutor. Our legal branch goes through this material regularly. All I am saying is that if you analyse what Dr. Korn was saying as the series of events unfolded, you will see that he, Dr. Pudden and all of the people who were there were basically trying to track down something that was not hard and fast with respect to evidence. First and foremost, they were trying to find a way to end the tragedy; after that, one takes a look at where problems might have arisen.

We deal with this question as well in the case of other public institutions that have outbreaks of diarrhoea and other things which have occurred this past fall. It is difficult to pinpoint exactly all of the evidence that is available. Sometimes some piece of information that was not initially available might be generated and it might have been of use to the people inside the ministry.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Setting aside the outbreak, Dr. Styliadis's report on September 20 was devastating and pointed to some real problems in that nursing home, even if 18 people had not died.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, that report probably will be analysed and perhaps you will find some information will develop through the inquest on that as well.

Mr. Pope: May we come back to this next Wednesday morning? I think this is really important.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, you will not be here this afternoon; will somebody be representing you?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I believe Mr. Swart will be here, probably asking for nursing home beds in Welland.

Mr. Chairman: It has happened before and it is conceivable that the House will sit on the last Wednesday before we have the short vacation. However, could we get a starting time for next Wednesday?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am prepared to go at nine o'clock or 9:30 a.m. again, if you want to stop at 12 noon.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: How many hours do we have?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have about two and a half.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Let us start at 9:30 a.m. and then we will have at least half an hour to make phone calls in the morning.

Mr. Chairman: We will start at 9:30 a.m. I have another question, and I realize everybody here is not a member of the committee. If it were a normal time of year, next Wednesday we would launch into the estimates of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture following the completion of Health. We have a couple of options. We could wait to start Citizenship and Culture until we next sit or start them and have the minister's statement and whatever. What is the committee's wish?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think we have many members of the committee here with whom you could raise that.

Mr. Chairman: We are not going to have; we have three here.

Mr. Hennessy: How many hours do we have?

Mr. Chairman: We have eight hours. Are you prepared to leave that to the chairman to decide?

Hon. Mr. Elston: My only concern is that Mr. Pope indicated that the chairman may be doing something else. I am quite concerned.

Mr. Pope: That is wishful thinking.

Mr. Chairman: You are exactly right; I am doing something else. I am going to my son's wedding in Hawaii.

The committee recessed at 12:04 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government

Estimates, Ministry of Health

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Wednesday, December 11, 1985

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, December 11, 1985

The committee resumed at 2:07 p.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 3601, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Chairman: As we have come to order, or basically so, does anybody have any questions for Dr. Dyer?

Mr. Pope: I have a few questions based on this morning's discussion—to try and wrap it up. Doctor, would you rather wait until the minister is here?

Dr. Dyer: I think so.

Mr. Chairman: We have to be consistent here.

I guess Dr. Psutka is not here yet, but last week I was asking some questions, probably not in the committee but afterwards in the discussion we had. Because of a particular problem I have, one of the commitments the ministry made was to supply me with a statement that would help me to know what is going on and also help me explain to my constituents the superb values of central dispatch, which some people have had no complaints about. The main reason they have not had any complaints is because they do not have any central dispatch yet. So I presume that is coming, Dr. Dyer. I think it would be good public relations for all the members of the committee, or all members of government as far as I am concerned.

Dr. Dyer: Graham Brand, the director of the ambulance services branch, is here if you want to ask any questions about that. He has indicated that document is coming to you. Do you have it with you, Mr. Brand?

Mr. Brand: No, I do not have it with me, but there is a—

Mr. Pope: You had a list that morning. Are those the ones forthcoming?

Mr. Chairman: They were mentioned and the minister indicated yes. That was the list of projects involved in the 8.3 per cent, and the list of facilities where head injuries could be treated. I understand those are coming. We will be patient

until next Wednesday. At least I will. What about you, Mr. Pope?

Mr. Pope: I wish the minister was here, that is what I wish.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any points anybody wants to have clarified by the staff who are here before the minister's arrival?

Mr. Pope: Perhaps before the minister gets here I could ask a question that is not too controversial.

We have talked about the bill of rights and there was some discussion about voluntary compliance by nursing home operators. Where do we stand in the Ministry of Health with respect to service contracts, with more detail for the benefit of both the client or patient and the operator, such as those that have been drawn up for use at facilities for the mentally retarded? What has been the progress towards that kind of detailed contract? Any problems between the patient or client and the nursing home operator do not have to be settled on the basis of prosecutions under the laws of the province, but can be decided on a basis of contractual relationships between the nursing home operators and the patients. That takes a lot of the intense legalistic aspects, out of the relationship and allows people to rely on contractual understandings.

It also opens the way to more self-help patient remedies than now exist, and in some cases could take a lot of complaints out of the hands of the ministry staff and make the issue a direct, contractual negotiation.

Mr. Kealey: That is all part of a package of material we are now pulling together relating to rights and responsibilities which will look at the question of advocacy, and not only at the models we have in Ontario but, for example, the models in Washington, Connecticut, etc., and try to make some determination of how that might be structured.

If we do that, then we have to build in the question of access. One thing that is giving us some difficulty is the question of a package of rights. We are now having our legal people look at them and say, "If you did enshrine it is it enforceable because of the rights being somewhat broad?"

The other approach to consider is the admission agreement, which I think you are referring to. If, for some reason, the decision was not to enshrine the rights package in legislation because of its nature, then we would probably build it into the admission agreement. A number of the homes for the aged, for example, use admission agreements now. We have obtained copies from them and are looking at that document to see how we can tailor it for use in nursing homes.

Mr. Pope: Are you saying you have not yet decided which way to go?

Mr. Kealey: No, we would like to do both. The only question right now is what is the most effective way to deal with the rights package? We would like to draw up an admission agreement document which could be used. We have had some discussions with the industry on it and it is not opposed to any of those concepts, but we are now considering whether we should make the rights package part of the admission agreement, which would be a contractual thing.

Mr. Pope: How long is this process going to take? This issue has been sitting for a while.

Mr. Kealey: I do not think it will take a long time.

Mr. Pope: What does that mean?

Mr. Kealey: Most of the background work is completed. First, we looked at the different models, because basically we moved from the advocacy models and the literature search on that. We are moving to the point where we will be able to finalize the documents that could go forward for internal decisions.

Mr. Pope: You are not answering my question, which is, how long is this going to take?

Now that the minister is here, we are talking about the internal process, looking at patients' rights in nursing homes and whether you go by law or contract or both in admission agreements.

Mr. Kealey was discussing the fact that the staff was looking at the options and talking to the nursing home operators and trying to assess which way to go. The question I was trying to put to him was, precisely how long is this process going to take?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Pope does not want you to repeat what was said, which was "relatively soon."

Hon. Mr. Elston: That was with respect to some of the amendments, obviously. We are coming to those.

Mr. Pope: Yes. Mr. Kealey said it would be soon.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We always have to keep in mind that our schedules keep getting rearranged for us on some occasions. All I can tell you is that we have been deeply involved in analysing responses to suggestions that are being made to us.

I cannot give you an exact date when all of this stuff will finally come together. I just know that when Mr. Kealey says "soon," it is there. I do not know whether you sense that the process that you have to go through to finally get everything out of reviewing sometimes can take a little longer than you expect.

We are moving as quickly as we can through the process that has to be followed. I expect the date to be early in the new year, but I cannot tell you January 15 or February 15 or something like that. I cannot be more specific. I am sorry.

Mr. Pope: Okay. I have just one other point on the extended care charges or potential charges or noncharges or whatever the decision is.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You mean the uninsured charges?

Mr. Pope: No, I am talking about the situation in London.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You mean Extendicare as opposed to extended care.

Mr. Pope: What has been the role of the special prosecutor so far?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The fellow who just came on a month ago has not been as intimately involved because he is a recent addition. The legal services branch has been involved in reviewing the material that was generated through the inspection procedures and through the interventions we made when the events unfolded.

Mr. Pope: There was a special prosecutor who was appointed by a minister somewhat removed. Was it Mr. Norton?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That prosecutor was Mr. Budzinski, who has since moved out of the area. He stayed on to do a couple of things, including the Elm Tree Nursing Home, but really has not been active. He did not retire but left early by secondment; his employment was terminated early in the new year. He has since been replaced with someone who came on staff about a month ago, as indicated earlier.

Mr. Kealey: Yes. He only came in about November, but our own legal services branch had been doing the work.

You might wonder why he has not been involved. He probably would not be involved because if you were to look at it, you would do so

under the legislation the inspectors relied on. It was not under the Nursing Homes Act, it was the Health Protection and Promotion Act with food premises requirements. Therefore, it would be handled by our own legal services branch rather than the nursing homes special prosecutor because of the legislation that we used.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Pope: With such a major case, one of the questions I have to ask is, why was a special prosecutor not seconded at least from the Ministry of the Attorney General to help expedite the investigation and the decision you have to make with respect to charging or not?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot answer. We were actively pursuing bringing in a special prosecutor to the ministry, and this has continued to be something we are actively trying to pursue.

Mr. Pope: That is one of the issues we can talk about next Wednesday morning. May I ask how many meetings have been held with the Ontario Nursing Home Association with respect to next year's per diem payments? Have you started the process?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, it has started and has been ongoing. I do not know how many meetings we have had.

Mr. Kealey: I cannot give you an exact number, but we have been meeting with the nursing home association since before April. We have met quite regularly. Recently, we have both met with and talked to the head of their negotiating committee about every third or fourth day.

Mr. Pope: Are the negotiations constrained by the government transfer policy on percentage of increase in transfers or any fiscal policy enunciated by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon)? Are those the parameters of the negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Partly. We are living, of course, with the three per cent guidelines which were set earlier. That is part of the constraint. We are also discussing the other questions dealing with quality-of-care items and other things with respect to what services are available and provided under the per diem that is ultimately negotiated.

Mr. Pope: Are you thinking of moving away from the nursing home councils and into a fully independent patient's advocate system? Are you prepared to support a transfer of responsibility for those advocates to another ministry so it will be independent?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Some suggestions were made to the member for London North (Mr. Van

Horne) and his study group that such items be considered. Right now, we are not making moves in that direction. There is an opportunity for heightened activity by residents' councils. For instance, the style the councils developed in their early stages and the membership and chairmanship of those councils might be looked at. I suspect that some of those items are going to be reported on by Mr. Van Horne.

Mr. Pope: In your ministry, are you engaged in any negotiations with the Ministry of the Attorney General to have an independent patient's advocate system under that jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not talked to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) at this stage. The other item is that the Crittenden group is somewhat independent of us. In making a report on some of those items there is the question of how we should field complaints as well as how the system is working now.

Mr. Pope: Have any of these matters been discussed between your ministry staff and Mr. Van Horne's study group?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is difficult to prevent them from being discussed, inasmuch as a good number of the people working with Mr. Van Horne or his group are seconded from the Ministry of Health. They are quite familiar with the operation. Also, some of them, as you know, come from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

That amalgamation of people obviously is going to consider a lot of things from both ministries and has the opportunity of discussing matters back and forth.

Mr. Pope: Is the ministry itself negotiating or discussing with Mr. Van Horne's study group the independent advocates going under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's ministry?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think you can say we are negotiating there.

Mr. Pope: When will the regulation outlining terms of access to the nursing homes be finalized?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is part of our overall response to a lot of concerns expressed to us and part of the package of amendments we talked about earlier this morning. As soon as we can get our whole program through the process it will be available.

Mr. Pope: As I recall, you do not have a time frame for that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right. Time is kind of elusive for some of us.

Mr. Pope: Others have a lot of it, though. I have to ask about the review of the inspection branch. What alternatives for that review have you examined? If you have settled on an independent consultant's review, I have to voice my concern. I do not have an answer either, but I do not know how independent a consultant's review can be.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have looked at having a consultant come in from outside to examine the questions we have to address on the basis of the scope I read into the record earlier. When an analysis is done, I see it as an external standpoint, as providing somebody to whom people can provide their input and get some kind of external review. I think it is the best option I had available.

Mr. Pope: My concern is that everyone consults with the Minister of Health on an ongoing independent basis and I do not know how you can—I am sorry; go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was only throwing you the handout that was given out earlier.

Mr. Pope: I do not know how independent a review can be if the consultant finally selected has had an ongoing relationship with the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is something we have to—

Mr. Pope: I am prepared to admit it is a conundrum.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have to take that into consideration and wait until we see the results. We have to opt for the best possible method. In this situation, the external review was felt to be the best response to it. As soon as we can find a better one, we will be able to make another decision.

Mr. Pope: There is some feeling a couple of committee members would like to get into a discussion about ambulances.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any questions on anything else at the moment?

Mr. Dean: I have a question on placement co-ordination, but that is a little different from nursing homes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: If you want to return to placement co-ordination, I am sure there will be a good bit of material with Mr. Van Horne's group, generated from the public hearings it will have had, about the need for placement and co-ordination services. A number of these items are covered in that study, which is quite comprehensive as to what is there now and what people think we need.

Mr. Chairman: Where are the Minister without Portfolio's (Mr. Van Horne) estimates?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is a good question. There are no secretariats. I am not sure where they are.

Mr. Chairman: If he does not have any money and you are giving it to him, perhaps you should bring him next week.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure I have given him anything. There were allocations suggested in the statement of the Treasurer with respect to some money that was available. I am not sure where Mr. Van Horne's allocation will be. There is a suggestion it might even be under the cabinet office, but I cannot answer that question.

Mr. Pope: May I ask a quick policy question before we get to ambulances? Have you issued an Ontario health insurance plan registration number to Dr. Morgentaler?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, one has been issued.

Mr. Pope: When was it issued?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure when it was. I believe it was during the summer, in August.

Mr. LeNeveu: No, it was in the spring.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was in the spring.

Mr. Pope: You had better check on that, because as of May 8, there was nothing issued.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. LeNeveu, you had better come to a microphone.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will check on that.

Mr. Pope: I know it was not issued before July. There was an exchange of correspondence in April and May and a refusal by a Minister of Health to issue an OHIP registration number, as well as some discussion with the Attorney General's office. What I need is a follow-up from that date based on where it stands now.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Swart, would you like to lead off about ambulances?

Mr. Swart: Yes, I would like to have some discussion about the ambulance service. I did not know this was going to be introduced before I came in, so I am certainly not as well prepared as I would have been.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I would ask Graham Brand to come up to the microphone.

Mr. Swart: It will not surprise the minister that I want to talk about the ambulance service, in particular about what has transpired in our area. I want to immediately commend him for having the courage to have revoked a licence for the Welland ambulance service, which the previous

government did not have the courage to do, and to cause at least a temporary—and maybe it is only that—improvement in the situation with regard to the ambulance service in Welland.

It is my understanding they have appealed, and I believe you notified me of that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is correct.

Mr. Swart: I am not sure, and I presume the minister is not either, what the outcome will be. For the time being, there is a great improvement in the service and attitude of the employees, and I assure you that any return to the previous situation would be pretty severely resisted both by the public and by the employees.

Before we get into the details, in view of the situation which exists across the province with regard to the great contrast in wages and working conditions, and to some extent even in services and certainly in the type of operation of the ambulance service, would the minister like to tell the committee what his long-range or even interim plans are for the ambulance service?

I know of the problems that have existed over the years in the private sector. From the number of private operators who have approached me, whether from Hamilton or a great many places—and I was never a critic in Health—one could see there were real problems. Perhaps some of them were of their own making. Also, at least part of the problem was there were no clear guidelines from the ministry in the change from global funding to funding on the basis of the individual service and individual cost. The operators did not know what they were going to have and how to plan in the future. At one time they were given global funding, then at a later date they had to get approval even for the purchase of pencils and paper.

The minister has been in office for close to six months, and I would think he has given some thought to long-range planning. I would be glad if he could inform us now what his long-range or intermediate plans are regarding the ambulance service. Are you going to leave it as the hodge-podge it is at the present time with some private operators, some nonprofit operators and some directly under the ministry? Are you making any plans—and I think you are—to have at least some equalization of wages between the private and public sectors, or between various parts of the private sector?

I am sure you are aware that in the Niagara Peninsula, part-time operators in Welland were being paid at the rate of about \$5.50 an hour and in Niagara Falls were being paid more than double that amount. In fact, the anomaly goes

even further. At least two people who worked part-time in the Welland operation also worked part-time in the Niagara Falls operation. For the ambulance service they were providing in Niagara Falls, they were getting double the amount of money they got in Welland for doing exactly the same job. I am sure you would not consider that to be a very satisfactory arrangement in areas only 12 miles apart. Perhaps you would like to tell us what your long-range plans are.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have no magic solutions to the overall ambulance service; however, there has been a substantial improvement in many areas over the situation in 1967—was it 1967?

Mr. Brand: In 1967-68.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In 1967-68 when the ministry originally got involved in it. The long-range plan, as I have indicated to people in the OAOA, which is the Ontario Ambulance Operators Association, and to people in some of the unions, is to sit down and have very thorough discussions with them about the future prospects for ambulance services in the province. You have described it as a hodge-podge. There certainly is a mixture of responses in the province.

One of the things we have seen is an improvement in the central dispatch area, as was reviewed last week by Dr. Psutka, and how those things are working in various centres in the province providing us with capabilities for advanced life-support services in addition to the basic life support. There are efforts at co-ordinating our response to ambulance service needs across the province from that standpoint.

There is a long-range suggestion that we involve the various components in our system in helping us address some of the needs. That is the extent of my long-range planning, and I have had discussions with members of employee groups and owners' groups.

I am quite aware we have some volunteer people as well, who I think we have to talk with to find out exactly how they are operating. Mr. Brand knows the system much better than you or I probably do. He may be able to provide us with a little information on the constituent parts of this service so we can tell you where we are as a jump-off point, if you would like, Mr. Swart.

Mr. Swart: Yes, I would like it.

Mr. Brand: I would add that, as the minister said, one of the first steps in our whole long-range planning process is to get the central ambulance communication centres off and running and get that system in place. That is really

complementary to some of the other things we are doing.

2:40 p.m.

A key area in the whole measurement, analysis and monitoring of what is going on in the ambulance system is the management information system. We have started to upgrade the system, or at least bring it around to current technology and update the existing Ontario ambulance information system. The objective there is to get a much better handle on a daily basis on the kinds of things that are going on in the system. Given that, and how that would be complemented through central communications, maybe we will be in a position to collect that information and record it.

There could be some analysis there which would give us a much better perspective on what the system is doing on a daily basis, where changes are occurring in call volume and response time, which in general are affected by the movement of ambulance vehicles through a central communications centre.

I would say that when we get those things in place we shall be in a much better position to start looking at the total package to see where we want to go with that.

Mr. Swart: I understand this will be an improvement to the overall system, but how long are we talking about? I am not sure that will solve all of the problems that may exist out there in the ambulance services.

Mr. Brand: Probably, as was said last week—and I was not present for that—we have very close to 85 per cent of the population now under a central communications system. By the end of next year we shall be a little further along with that. The work that is being done on the land information system, which is what we are calling this upgrading of the ambulance information system, will probably be well along by early summer next year.

As I have said, given those kinds of changes, we can start to look again at how the system is working and the various areas of growth in the system, etc.

We have some plans with regard to where we would like to see changes made, perhaps in the extent of service being offered in the areas, etc. However, recognizing the main benefits of the central ambulance communications system, which are to bring about a much more effective utilization of the ambulance vehicles that we have out there, and where the vehicle is not being utilized to its optimum maybe allowing some redistribution in the areas covered by this central

dispatch, I think we can go a long way with what we have.

Mr. Swart: Do you not run into a problem of co-ordination when you have some privately-operated ambulances in the Niagara Peninsula and a public system, and you start switching over from one to the other?

Mr. Brand: I would say at the operational level, which is really at the street level if you like, where the ambulance service is being provided, we have had very little in the way of problems of that nature. Any problems we have in dealing with the mix of operators tends to occur more at the administration level. We take this on as a problem within the ambulance services branch which really does not concern the effort on services being delivered on the streets. There we have gone to great lengths to ensure there are standards of both training and education of the attendants, and also that there are standards of vehicles and equipment.

I am not sure whether it has been mentioned before, but the ministry owns all of the approximately 600 ambulance vehicles that are in the system. They are supplied to the operators, along with a list of standard equipment. I think the stress there, again, should be on the fact we are aiming at standards of consistency where the program is delivered, at the street level. The only differences we have in the system tend to be in the class of management, and that is really a problem we take on, as I said, at the branch level.

Mr. Swart: You have had quite a lot of problems over the years in the management area in the Niagara Peninsula.

Mr. Brand: I think we are coming to the end of that. There are very few problems left in that system. We now have a good handle on it.

Mr. Swart: Yes. There are in the Niagara Peninsula.

Mr. Brand: I would say yes, in the Niagara Peninsula; we're working on that.

Mr. Swart: Would you not agree there obviously is a problem of morale for employees in areas where some are being paid \$12.27 an hour and others are being paid \$10 an hour?

Mr. Brand: Again, we have to look at the history of the service, the way in which the service developed and where the roots of these people and the operators are. Many of them were in the business before the government became involved in the provision of ambulance services.

Some of those employees who are still there were paid, as some people told me, 50 cents an hour about 15 years ago. They feel they have

come a long way with regard to attaining some professional standing with the ambulance service. It is something to be proud of and they recognize that. But there are these differences in the pay levels and much of those can be explained in terms of market conditions, or there has just been an evolution of pay adjustments within the service, which is between the employer and the employees.

Mr. Swart: It is something between the employer and the employees. Perhaps I could ask the minister whether there is sufficient funding being provided by the ministry for them to pay rates equivalent to those in the public ambulance service. That leads to the question I first asked that has not yet been answered.

I recognize where you started with all of the ambulance services and that you cannot do everything overnight; but is it the intent, through the offer of the funding, to move towards greater equity in the payment of employees in the ambulance service in this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot say we can move to have everybody in the province in the ambulance service paid the same rate.

Mr. Swart: That is not really what I asked.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Then you are not looking at parity.

Mr. Swart: I asked if there would be a move towards greater equity; or are we saying now there will be the four per cent increase, or whatever it may be, in the year, but there will not be sufficient funding for those employees at a far lower rate of pay to at least move up along the line, to get an amount close to what the ambulance service is getting in the public sector? Is it not true that in both the recent Hamilton strike and the Uxbridge-Stouffville ambulance service there was some indication given in the settlement that over a period of two, three or four years the rate would move closer to that of the operators in the public sector?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was not involved at the bargaining table in negotiating with those individual groups, because I left the owners to find from their own budgets a response to the request of the employees. I have to respect a decision made by an employer about his intentions. If employers were able to find, inside their budgets, opportunities of making movements or commitments—I do not know what commitments have been made between an employer and an employee group—it is up to them to make facilitating arrangements.

As long as we have the situation where private employers are obviously negotiating with their employees, it will have to be left up to them to review their budgets, to take a look at what is available and make what moves they feel they can. I cannot make a commitment for this government. As the Minister of Health, I cannot indicate that the Treasurer will fund every decision made apart from our government.

Mr. Swart: Are you telling me that in the cases of the Hamilton strike and the Uxbridge-Stouffville situation the ministry was not involved in any way? There was no contact made from the operators about whether there would be funding there to pay for rates granted.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I did not provide any guarantee of the rates. They took a look at their budgets. That is how they have to do it. They take a look at their budgets and how their budgets are set up and what is available to them. Then they arrive at their settlements.

Mr. Swart: I was told that when negotiations were going on in the Hamilton strike, at one place even during the night the operator of that service left the table, phoned the ministry and came back and said, "Yes, we will agree to this. The money is going to be there for this."

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is an enviable style of negotiation to be able to say you are going out to get confirmation from wherever and use that as a lever in your negotiating.

Mr. Swart: I think you are leading me down the garden path a little bit. Are you saying there was no contact between those operators and the ministry? I am not talking to you personally.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, but I mean I have personally talked with people from the employees' group and people from the association of owners. I knew what was going on from the standpoint of the types of requests that were being made, but I do not know if anybody went out of a room and got a confirmation that such and such would be done. There may have been requests with respect to information on budget, I do not know, but I know I did not guarantee the settlement.

Mr. Swart: But you would not tell me there was not frequent contact between the operators and the ministry during negotiations.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot monitor what is going on.

Mr. Swart: I am trying to get an impression from the ministry about whether it met the

request that funds would be there. Can you tell me whether there was any discussion?

Mr. Brand: They knew about the allocation they were given in advance of negotiation, and that formed the basis of their allocation and their negotiation. They were instructed by us to stay within that allocation and to negotiate whatever rate they liked. Discussion between the operators and the ministry at the staff level occurs on a fairly frequent basis, and that can be about anything. They can be calling, as the minister has said, just to confirm exactly what the budget allocation is. Maybe they are in a meeting. They do not have that piece of paper with them or whatever. I do not think anybody in the branch was called to get confirmation of those kinds of figures.

Mr. Swart: Are you saying there was no indication given to any of them that the original allocation would not be subject to change, that it would be firmly held regardless of what they did? Were they told that?

Mr. Brand: They were told that and that is what they did.

Mr. Swart: There was no indication given to any of them that there would be any consideration for a change in allocation.

Mr. Brand: No, because their allocation is something we as a ministry are given, and that we passed on to them by way of a budget letter, indicating what the guideline increase would be like for this year; and that was three per cent. That is the allocation they had to work with.

Mr. Pope: Was there discussion between this operator and Ministry of Health officials with respect to any increase in budget allocation because of increased volume? Did those discussions go on during the negotiation process?

Mr. Brand: Not to the best of my knowledge. I would not think they did, but again that discussion would be held at a local level.

Mr. Pope: Did the Hamilton ambulance service get not only the three per cent increase but an additional increase because of an increase in volume?

Mr. Brand: No. We did not receive any enhancements to our basic allocation this year.

Mr. Pope: There were no increases to budgets of ambulance services because of volume increases?

Mr. Brand: Not this year.

Mr. Swart: And no commitment was given that they would receive any special consideration for next year?

Mr. Brand: That is right.

Mr. Swart: I interpret what you say to mean that in every instance the maximum increase in allocation was three per cent, even in areas where substantial increases well above the three per cent were given to their employees?

Mr. Brand: That is right.

Mr. Pope: Was there any additional staff? Were there any additional agreements or approvals to add staff because of volume increases?

Mr. Brand: Not in 1985-86. There has not really been an enhancement in any ambulance service this year.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is land-based.

Mr. Brand: There has been a core volume increase that has been met largely through constraint, and also through some productivity improvement where ambulance crews are now doing more calls per shift than they were doing in the past, and so on. We may feel the effects of that down the road, but within this year they have not been funded any additional money for that.

Mr. Pope: Have any new ambulance services been funded this year?

Mr. Brand: One service opened in the Cloyne area. I think it was a volunteer service. That was funding provided during last year. I think it was officially opened at some time in the summer.

Mr. Pope: What are your plans, then, with respect to Bloomfield, Stouffville, Aurora, Keswick and Ridgeway?

Mr. Brand: The Uxbridge-Stouffville ambulance base has been operating as a satellite of the existing operator in Whitby for some time until the ownership issue is sorted out. We will probably go for a proposal within the near future.

Mr. Pope: Does your budget have any allocation this year for the introduction of new ambulance services?

Mr. Brandt: In 1985-86?

Mr. Pope: Yes.

Mr. Brandt: No.

Mr. Swart: May I pursue this a little further? Are you saying an attempt will be made to provide greater funding equality so the lowest rates can be raised? Are you saying it will be a straight three or four per cent this coming year, with perhaps some adjustment depending on volume; and that you are not attempting, at least in the near future, to provide any equalization in the various wages?

Port Colborne is a classic example, the wages being far below those of any other ambulance

services around. The Flamborough service is also substantially lower than that of Hamilton. Where wages differ by \$1 or \$2 an hour, have you no plans to equalize them?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have talked with members of both the operators' and the employees' groups about future developments for ambulance service in Ontario. The understanding is that we are now talking land-based as opposed to air ambulance and that sort of thing?

Mr. Swart: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am willing to consider some suggestions they may make to me, but I am approaching it with an open mind as to how we can do certain things. I discussed with those people a study taking into account the various parts of the service provided now and how we can improve it to make it more comprehensive. Involved in that would be discussions about our response to wage questions. The employee groups are interested in discussing that with the ministry from a quality standpoint.

Mr. Swart: I am sure they are.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They really are. You know that and I know that.

The other thing is that Port Colborne is settled, as you probably know by now.

Mr. Swart: No, I did not.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They voted on Saturday and I think they settled at \$11.17, which puts them into—

Mr. Swart: Perhaps you do not know this. I know that was on the market. Is it sold, or was there a settlement with the previous owner?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I understand it, it is with the owner who had it at the time the strike occurred.

Mr. Swart: What is the timing on this program you are going to work out; your meeting?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know. When I talked to members of different employee groups, there were difficulties in trying to get everybody geared to discussing their roles. It was the same with the operators. We have plans to have a more comprehensive coverage of our dispatching services and also of co-ordinating our individual operators, volunteer groups, ministry and hospital services. I would like some initial things on the road early in the new year. Again, I have talked to various people and inside our ministry we have been considering what might be the best mode of working out that response. Graham Brand, Dr. Psutka and I have not yet come up

with the final solution to setting up a consultation process.

3 p.m.

Mr. Swart: But in principle you are giving a commitment here today to try to work out a formula providing greater equality in the wages of the various services, at least in a given area?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, I said I have received that input from the employee associations. I am sure they want to pursue that. I have advised them we can pursue those questions, but not without participation and discussion about the ability to improve our service overall. I am not limiting any discussions to one part of the service or another. I am requesting their assistance in providing input about the entire system.

Mr. Hennessy: I have the same question to ask about Thunder Bay as was asked by the two previous speakers. I have inquired of the minister through his office—and I understand a letter is being typed—about what percentage the operator got this year.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In Thunder Bay?

Mr. Hennessy: My question goes back to those Mr. Swart and Mr. Pope have asked as to what percentage the operator got. When employees come for a pay increase they want to make sure the employer is not saying he got a smaller percentage than he actually received while trying to throw blame on the ministry that it did not give him enough.

I expect to get the letter. I am concerned about the increase, because if the operator does not get one that is good enough he cannot very well make a profit and still take care of his employees. The employees are left at a certain wage level; at the same time other people are getting that four per cent increase they wind up with only a small percentage. It makes it difficult.

I am not criticizing. I am saying the position of the employees is at the bottom of the line. After the operator pays his expenses and takes his profit, whatever is left goes to the employees.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I asked Mr. Brand and he confirmed that the level is three per cent in that situation. Please understand that the operator actually gets a management fee for providing the service. In fact, it is a matter of profit. Perhaps I could get Mr. Brand to outline how the private person is included in our system.

Mr. Hennessy: Would you send me a letter to that effect?

Hon. Mr. Elston: If you do not mind, I think it would be helpful for us to have Mr. Brand go through how those are set up.

Mr. Brand: As was said before, they are on a line-by-line operating budget which, subject to review by the ministry, they tell me is 100 per cent of the operating costs of providing the service. With respect to the management component of running an ambulance service, a private operator has a completely separate account for that. That is a call-volume-based fee for management and it is set. It consists of a number of ranges up to a certain call volume.

Mr. Hennessy: From what bottom and what top?

Mr. Brand: I am not sure I have that with me. I think it ranges from \$15,000 up to around \$95,000, depending on the size of the service. In an area such as London, with the Thames Valley ambulance service serving a fairly large community, the call volume would place them at the top of that management compensation plan.

That is not a management wage; it is compensation for providing management, which means there are certain costs associated with management, such as hiring a bookkeeper, a secretary or whatever, that have to be borne through that management compensation. In a smaller service, you may find the operator is able to do all those things himself and, therefore, takes that as a management wage. In a very small service where the management compensation probably would not be enough to provide a decent income for one individual, the manager also has the option of working as an ambulance attendant. When he works as an ambulance attendant he is paid as an ambulance attendant through the operating account of the service.

We could find ourselves in a small service where the operator may work 24 or 30 hours a week as an ambulance attendant and handle the management activity during the balance of the work week; if it is a one-vehicle service with 10 employees, there is not much to do in the way of administrative work. It does not require a full-time manager. The compensation is designed to relate to that.

The original plan was devised some years ago. It was expected the management compensation amounts would equate to roughly the amount of money the ministry was paying for management in a ministry-operated service, where there might be a manager, plus a bookkeeper and maybe a secretary. That plan, as has been said, is completely separate from the operating account. Now we are in a situation where we are funding those plans in two separate bank accounts.

Mr. Hennessy: A person gets X number of dollars for being in the management area. With

respect to the three per cent they get from the ministry for operating costs and salaries, if they took off half a per cent of that, I assume that would reflect on the employees and what kind of a raise they would be getting. They would be going into both barrels. There would be apples in both barrels.

Mr. Brand: They are not allowed to take any of that operating money. It has to be accounted for in expenditure.

Mr. Hennessy: Can they do bookkeeping to some extent? I am sure there are enough accountants smart enough to know how to do it. There are lots of guys get caught doing it, but a lot get away.

Mr. Brand: We do not have any who get away with it. They are subject to audit. The Ministry of Health auditors audit. Operators have to provide all financial statements to the ministry and they are also on a quarterly-monthly financial statement reporting system.

As we had mentioned earlier, that was one of the problems in the Welland service. Charges were laid and the operator was convicted of fraud.

Mr. Swart: Let me carry that one step further. In those areas now you say you have line-by-line payments, which I understand. With respect to a service where there has been a settlement substantially above the three per cent, and Hamilton was—I forgot the exact figure, but it was well above the three per cent—what will the position of the ministry be when that comes up next year? Do you pay that line-by-line on the increase given this year? What about the wages they are to receive next year? Do you pay line-by-line or is that operator indefinitely going to have to pay some of that out of his management fee?

Mr. Brand: That is something to which maybe the minister should respond. I am not sure what the government policy on funding will be next year. I have not been told what the allocation increases will be or anything like that.

Mr. Swart: That is a very important question both to the operators and the employees. Where does that additional money come from if they go above the three per cent? It has been referred back to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: When people get into these negotiations they have an understanding where that money comes from. They may look at it, work inside their budget requirements and make a projection. As Mr. Brand said, with respect to our own allocations we do not have a total picture

now of what is going to be allocated to our ministry.

Mr. Swart: I just heard the statement that you have a line-by-line budget. Then those costs are a pass-through to the ministry, the actual cost plus a management fee. Those actual costs were raised this year above the three per cent limit, as they have been in at least one or two ambulance services. Where does that money come from? Does that operator carry on indefinitely, funding that out of the management fee if that is what he is doing this year?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That becomes the question.

Mr. Swart: That becomes the question to you. What is your answer?

Mr. Brand: Maybe I can provide an interim answer to that. The funding this year in excess of three per cent is not a factor. There is no salary award being negotiated in 1985-86 that requires them to provide any money from the management fee. Although the annualized impact of some of those settlements may be in excess of three per cent, they are still within the three per cent allocation.

In next year's budget, the operator has the opportunity to look at some saving in the other areas of the operating account, the ambulances services, and still keep within whatever the allocations will be. We would anticipate that, as in most prior years, there is going to be an increase given to the system. In 1986-87 it could be three per cent or whatever, I do not know. That would go towards paying that salary bill as well.

Mr. Swart: It is not in total a line-by-line payment?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not a line-by-line approval.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Brand: It is not a line-by-line control in the sense that they have the opportunity to move some of that money within their operating account.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They get their allocation, they have three per cent on their operating budget and they can look for economies there.

Mr. Swart: That means that in their budget this year there may have been some operational costs which were higher than they should have been from the point of view of the ministry, which were approved.

Mr. Brand: We have a settlement process within the budget process which takes place after the end of the fiscal year. There is an accounting

of some overruns on operating costs such as gas or whatever, where it is substantiated they did spend that money on gas, and that is usually matched by some underspending on budget amounts. There is a balancing that goes on. We go through a settlement process to arrive at a settlement with the operators on their prior year budget.

Mr. Swart: That does not necessarily mean that every operator will end up getting exactly three per cent for 1985.

Mr. Brand: It could be some of them will spend only one per cent.

Mr. Swart: And some may spend four or five per cent.

Mr. Brand: We have a balancing act to do at the ministry level, where we have to stay within three per cent of the allocation for ambulance services.

Mr. Swart: That is a different interpretation from what I got a short while ago when none was to get more than a three per cent allocation this year. I understood it was a maximum three per cent allocation to every operator.

Mr. Brand: They have been provided with a three per cent allocation increase. We do not know whether they will all spend that three per cent allocation until at least the end of the fiscal year. The year is ongoing. It ends in April.

Mr. Swart: You are telling me that although you say to them this is the budget for this year, if at the end of the year they go over that budget in some areas there is some reconsideration given so that some may get a one or two per cent increase and others may get a four or five per cent increase.

Mr. Brand: I am not sure the range would be that broad, but in some of those line-by-line areas—gas costs being one everyone can identify—if there is an increase in that account that exceeds the three per cent we would look elsewhere in the system to find that money.

Mr. Chairman: Does that apply to the wage account also?

Mr. Brand: We are talking about the variable costs within the service.

Mr. Chairman: I realize what you are talking about, but as chairman I also realize what Mr. Swart is talking about. My question is, is there room for adjustment in the salary account?

Mr. Brand: Not in terms of percentage. We would not retroactively go back and give more in a salary award. What may happen in the salary account is, if for some unplanned reason there is

a major event in an area, the tornado in Barrie for example or whatever that causes excess man-hours to be consumed either through overtime or calling in extra staff, then we would recognize that at adjustment time. That may cause an increase in the salary and wages allocation, but we would not go back to the union and say: "We have a bit more money. Let us renegotiate the salary."

Mr. Swart: I want to get to the bottom line again. If there was an increase given this year by an operator which was more than three per cent, could that be a factor either in next year's allocation or in the final adjustment of the allocation at the end of next year?

Mr. Brand: It would not be a factor in the adjustment of the 1985-86 allocation because they have, in effect, stayed within that three per cent allocation of salaries and wages with the awards they have given.

Mr. Swart: For this year; however, that could affect their total salaries and wages for next year.

Mr. Brand: Yes.

Mr. Swart: Could that be considered in the adjustment next year?

Mr. Brand: The consideration that would be given is that the system would be given an increase in allocation and they would have to make good that annualized increase through that allocation. They may then be put in a position where they have to come back and ask for more. I do not know what the response to that would be.

Mr. Swart: They may get it.

Mr. Brand: I cannot answer that.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Swart, I have been generous with you. Mr. Pope has to go in 15 minutes, and I would like to give him an opportunity. We can come back to your point at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Swart: I am afraid I have to go too. I want to ask for more details about the ambulance and a bit more on your future plans for Welland. I will give way to Mr. Pope.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Pope has to leave in a few minutes. We will go back to that after Mr. Pope has had a chance here.

Mr. Pope: I think they are developing an answer for me.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually, we are just going through some of the developments on the Morgentaler question. Perhaps Mr. LeNeveu could explain it. Although his handwriting is quite good, that might be easier

Mr. LeNeveu: My handwriting is actually very bad. The minister is too kind.

In May the Ministry of Health wrote to Dr. Morgentaler asking whether he would be providing insured services. He responded in the latter part of May. On July 7 the Ontario health insurance plan issued a billing number to Dr. Morgentaler for services in this area.

Mr. Pope: I presume that discussions continued in the ministry about whether Dr. Morgentaler would commit in writing to obeying the laws of the country and the province.

Mr. LeNeveu: The letter that was sent to him asked whether he intended to provide insured services and indicated that abortion outside of a hospital setting was not authorized under section 251 of the Criminal Code. He responded that he would be providing insured services.

I am not in a position to comment on the claims that have been submitted, but they are being reviewed in that context.

Mr. Pope: Can I ask why the registration number was issued?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It appeared from analysis inside the ministry at that stage that he was providing insured services.

Mr. Pope: But everyone knows what the issue is. I did not do it as minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The request from Mr. Andrewes was for more information and that information was developed. There were questions about whether one can prevent a physician in this province from having a number when he indicates he is providing insured services. His reply was that he was providing insured services and that was the basis on which he was given the number. His letter in response to that was the basis upon which that number was issued.

Mr. Pope: Was an opinion obtained from the Ministry of the Attorney General on this matter before the OHIP number was issued?

Mr. LeNeveu: The matter was reviewed from a legal point of view, yes.

Mr. Pope: By the Ministry of the Attorney General?

Mr. LeNeveu: They were also consulted, yes.

Mr. Pope: Has anyone reviewed the claims submitted since July 7 under that OHIP registration number?

Mr. LeNeveu: Yes. The claims are being reviewed.

Mr. Pope: Being reviewed?

Mr. LeNeveu: Are reviewed.

Mr. Pope: Have any payments been made under that registration number?

Mr. LeNeveu: To the best of my knowledge, yes, payments have been made.

Mr. Pope: Were they for insured services only or were they for services provided in that clinic beyond the regulations and policies of the Ministry of Health?

Mr. LeNeveu: They were for insured services.

Mr. Pope: Were there any claims disallowed?

Mr. LeNeveu: I cannot answer that question. I do not know. At an earlier point, I do not believe there were. I cannot tell you whether there have been any disallowed up to date.

Mr. Pope: Can I find out?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will check into it and see whether there have been any claims disallowed.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Pope: Can I ask whether the claims were for consultations? I would like to know whether the claims were for preliminary physical check-ups or post-operative checkups.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure just how much I can provide under confidentiality of information.

Mr. Pope: Yes, I understand that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As long as you understand that restriction, I will provide as much information as I can.

Mr. Hennessy: What concerns me is the same thing Mr. Pope was talking about. When a doctor applies for a registration number, it is more or less automatically passed. You do not have to go to the Attorney General to check up on that one individual. It makes me wonder why you go and check with the Attorney General as to the qualifications of this one doctor or whether it is necessary when a thousand other doctors could apply for the same registration number and nobody would go to the Attorney General. They would just issue it after they had the credentials.

There is not some second thought now by your government that perhaps a mistake was made in issuing this registration number? If he is a doctor and has all the credentials, why go to the Attorney General?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Our concern was that we wanted to be sure that he was providing, and would request compensation or reimbursement for, insurance services only.

Mr. Hennessy: So you went to the Attorney General? But you would not go there for another

doctor who applied for a practice, would you? You do not go to the Attorney General for every doctor who applies for a registration number.

Hon. Mr. Elston: From the standpoint that this individual—

Mr. Hennessy: For what he is doing, you had to see to the legality of the thing. That makes me wonder whether perhaps you yourself or the government is having second thoughts on the issuance of that registration number.

Hon. Mr. Elston: From the standpoint of profile of this physician, we wanted to understand fully any legal implications. That is not inconsistent with previous requests for issuance.

Mr. Hennessy: That is what made me concerned, when you have to check with the top law enforcer in the province. Did they check on whether he had a criminal record or any problem? If any other doctor had applied, you would never go to the Attorney General to check.

That is cause for concern. What are you doing?

Mr. Pope: I presume there had to have been some discussion because of the outstanding charges and the appeals. There had to have been some discussion on this matter between the Attorney General's department and your department. There has to be some consistency when you know the charges that are there and all that involves and the Attorney General's statements on it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Of course, but no convictions.

Mr. Pope: I agree, absolutely. But there was an appeal from an acquittal and all the problems that involves, and I presume, because of the public controversy, there had to have been some decision. Did cabinet consider this matter or was it a decision made by the Minister of Health?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not free to discuss the policy situation. All I can tell you is that the matter was reviewed from a legal standpoint and a decision made.

As Mr. Hennessy has pointed out, when people apply for a number and comply with all the requirements, we have to go ahead.

Mr. Pope: Yes, but in spite of that letter, you have a public statement from this doctor saying he disagrees with the provisions of the Criminal Code and has no intention of abiding by them. Those are statements on the public record. You know the background of this gentleman, and yet you accept at face value a very brief note from him and issue the OHIP registration number. Was the OHIP registration number issued in the

ordinary course of administrative decision-making, or was the decision made because of the high profile of this issue? Was the decision made by the minister or by the government?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The authorization was issued out of Kingston, through OHIP.

Mr. Pope: I know that, but was it issued by virtue of an administrative decision, by ministerial decision, or by a government decision?

Hon. Mr. Elston: All I can say is the situation was reviewed from the standpoint that he has an ability to perform services which are legally recognized in this province. We cannot exclude him from billing us for those services on the basis of an undertaking to perform those services.

Mr. Pope: But who made the decision?

Mr. Swart: My supplementary is who would know if it was a ministry decision, made by the minister, or if it was taken to cabinet? Surely you can answer that without consultation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is a decision that is made administratively day to day when people apply for these things.

Mr. Pope: Are you saying that knowing this was sitting there when you came in, you did not involve yourself in this?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I knew the application had been made. It was pretty hard not to know it had been made, obviously.

Mr. Pope: That is right. So did you alone okay the issuance of the registration number based on the advice you got or is it someone else's decision?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We reviewed it from the standpoint of the opinions that were delivered to us from a purely administrative standpoint.

Mr. Pope: Who is we? Is this the Ministry of Health that reviewed it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes.

Mr. Pope: Did cabinet review that decision?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure I can talk about cabinet deliberations.

Mr. Pope: I presume from that they did. Okay.

Is there any documentation you can table? Will you examine whether you can table any documentation in this matter, knowing there are confidentiality provisions? Will you examine that and let us know next Wednesday?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will take a look at what documentation there is.

Mr. Hennessy: On the same question, the minister did say that I mentioned that if the doctor

had qualifications, he would receive his number and there would be nothing said about it, just an examination.

It is very odd that there has to be a cabinet meeting and it has to go through the Attorney General before one individual gets his registration number. It is a lot different from what we are talking about in the magnitude and the services of the issuing of this licence. I agree with Mr. Pope in his questions.

It seems odd that it has to go to cabinet and to the Attorney General and the minister has to make a decision. That is a very top-line decision, as far as I am concerned. Any other doctor would just have to send in his qualifications and within a week he would be entirely free to practice. This is where I share the same concerns as Mr. Pope.

It has to be a serious matter, and is a serious matter in the eyes of many people who are outside of this room. The government did make the decision. To bring my religion into it, as a Roman Catholic, I am not in favour of it. I still think that to issue the licence, you are not trying to curtail the murder that has taken place—

Hon. Mr. Elston: He has the licence. He applies for a number.

Mr. Hennessy: Yes, but why have a cabinet meeting and the Attorney General sit in on it? The guy is not a—you have more or less treated him as if he were Jesse James and you wanted to examine him before he got his licence. But any other doctor would not go through that. That is what my argument is about.

Mr. Chairman: Could I suggest to the minister that you might consider between now and next week whether you would answer Mr. Pope's question. You may not want to answer it, but you left a lot of doubt. His question was, "Did you make the decision or did cabinet make the decision?"

I understand that cabinet documents and those kinds of things are cabinet's prerogative. I am not sure he is asking an unfair question or one which you should not answer when he asks specifically, "Did you or did cabinet make the decision?"

By next week, you might want to give us an answer on that. He is not asking what cabinet said. He is asking whether you or cabinet made the decision. You may want to, on reflection, answer that or you may not want to answer it.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Swart: Just on that point—

Hon. Mr. Elston: First of all, in answer to Mr. Hennessy, the question that goes through one's mind when a physician who is licensed to

practise in the province requests an OHIP number, is there must be, because of the necessity of the situation, some reason why you would refuse him a number. There is a right to have a billing number in Ontario. So bearing in mind—

Mr. Hennessy: Not wishing to prolong the argument, the Attorney General and the cabinet do not sit on every doctor's application.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is true.

Mr. Hennessy: That is my concern.

Mr. Swart: I am not sure the other issue is finished, but just on that point, it seems to me that you, Mr. Chairman, are right in asking that be answered because it is not really disclosing anything from cabinet. It seems to me there are two questions only.

Did the ministry staff make the final decision? If the answer is no, did the minister make the final decision? If the answer is no to that, we have our answer.

Mr. Chairman: For how many years did you go to law school?

Mr. Swart: I want to go back for a moment to the general principle on the ambulance service pay question. I seem to get varied signals and I may be wrong. I thought the minister had indicated to me that he was going to try to take some steps towards some equalization of wages. We all know the bottom line is the money that comes from the ministry. There may be some more efficient operators than others, but the bottom line is the money from the ministry.

I just want to leave the thought with him that I think there should be very definitely a trend towards equalization. I realize the vying for money and all that sort of thing, but across our society, and it does not matter whether it has been school teachers or nurses or whatever the situation, when we have provincial plans there has been a great equalization of the salaries and wages paid.

I would think that is a reasonable and desirable objective to work towards some funding so there can be a greater equalization in the payment of wages.

I want to leave one other thought with you if I may. It seems to me we also should try to reverse this trend and have more of the ambulance operation in the public sector, in a nonprofit sector such as a hospital which operates at Hotel Dieu. But it is another one of those services like nursing homes where there is some real question about whether it remains a crucial service on which a profit should be made or whether there

should be more of it in the public sector. I am not saying it should be run by the province necessarily, but perhaps by hospitals or some other nonprofit services.

I have another question on a final issue. Simply, what are his proposals for the Welland Ambulance Service which, as the minister knows, serves the Welland and Fort Erie area? From now on, assuming that his decision to cancel the licence is upheld—and I think there is a good chance it may be; he knows more about that than I do—what are his proposals for that ambulance service?

Hon. Mr. Elston: First of all, I cannot get into the "what ifs" now and I do not want to outline a mode of operation before an appeal is heard, obviously; I do not want to get into difficulties there so I cannot tell the member more. I think it just would not be appropriate.

Second, in response to the question about equalization, again I have indicated that I will be prepared to listen to any suggestions that have been made. As I am often reminded by my people, equalization of rates can either be up or down, or whatever. I am sure the member does not mean to say that equalization can only be met by raising rates. Some people have told me it can be met by structuring a system differently in the overall.

I suspect he is talking about equalization upwards, not wage rates, but I have told people I have talked to in general terms, because I was very careful not to get into the situation of negotiating contracts, that I am not prepared to examine any single item alone. There have to be discussions in terms of the design of delivery of land-based ambulance service in general and how we can improve upon the system.

In that sense, I can tell you I am open to suggestions, and I am willing to talk to any groups who are involved in the delivery of that service, but I will not examine single items alone.

Mr. Chairman: Can I pursue a couple of things along the ambulance line?

Mr. Swart: I just want to make one comment and then I have to go, if I may, Mr. Chairman? I just want to say to the minister that I hope he will look with favour on leaving the Welland ambulance service under the public operation.

There is a discrepancy with regard to part-time workers only getting half as much as full-time workers. He has put these people up there on a wage level equal to the full-time operators and I commend him for it.

To have those wages cut in half again, to sell off that ambulance service as though this interim situation never existed, does not seem to be very realistic to me.

I urge him and encourage him to keep that under the public sector, or perhaps bring it under the St. Catharines ambulance service operation, but not revert to the kind of situation which existed before.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just as long as he understands we have not had a final determination of the appeal.

Mr. Swart: Oh, I realize that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience with me.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Minister, I do not find Mr. Swart's stand on this issue unbelievable at all from his point of view, but I want to—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mel is going to stay now.

Mr. Swart: As soon as he said 'but,' I want to hear.

Mr. Chairman: I want to offer a couple of suggestions to you on the matter of negotiations in particular. The problem that I have in my area is you give a three per cent allocation to the salary component, but the first question that is asked, and I know the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) was asking the same question, is what is the other account? In particular, what does the owner get as a management fee? Now, my experience over the years has been—

Mr. Swart: I think I am safe.

Mr. Chairman: Not really, but go ahead. On behalf of management, I do not have to try on this issue, but I have tried on behalf of the members of the union to get from your ministry what the management fee is for the particular ambulance owner and I have had no success in that.

It seems to be closely guarded and yet I think it is public information. There is some reluctance to divulge the information at the time of negotiation, but that leads to a lack of trust which causes all kinds of problems at negotiation time.

What the unions feel is that, above and beyond the wage component of the operation of an ambulance, there is something else, even over and above the management fee. I think the only way you will ever get around that is full disclosure of the other side of the coin. I think you have an easy answer for that but I would like to hear it.

3:40 p.m.

Dr. Dyer: Mr. Chairman, maybe I can respond to that. The management compensation plan is public information, and we will be glad to

provide you with that. It is based on the call volume and it varies according to that call volume. If the number of ambulance service calls increases, its management compensation will follow according to the formula. It is a strict formula that was increased by three per cent.

The rest of the budget is for its operations. I think there may be some confusion about this. The balance of the operation was increased by three per cent. At the end of the year, there is a settlement process required by the act. The act requires us to adjust the budget according to impacts on that budget. The impacts are entirely intended to be variable cost.

The wage settlement is not considered a variable cost. It is a fixed cost according to the number of hours. We would take the number of hours last year plus three per cent as the base salary cost. If the manager gives them more than that, he has to pick it up somewhere else. He would get more money if he spent money on variable costs, such as repairs, gasoline, tires or work hours. If he was required, as Mr. Brand said, to call in additional man-hours, that is a variable cost that he cannot necessarily control, but those hours would be paid at last year's wage plus three per cent.

We do not want to leave the impression that in the settlement we would go back and say, "You had additional costs because your wage settlement was over three per cent and that is an adjustable factor." It is not an adjustable factor.

Mr. Chairman: What happens if there is some money left in the salary component?

Dr. Dyer: If they had settled under three per cent, then they would get the three per cent adjustment to the total budget.

Mr. Chairman: What happens if they hire more staff?

Dr. Dyer: They would likely change the proportion of part-time versus full-time. They get a wage adjustment plus three per cent and they would likely change the number of man-hours that they have put into that line.

Mr. Chairman: It is not pure coincidence that there is distrust between the union and the operator because the union has great difficulty understanding the system. I suggest the ministry is not very free with information. I may be wrong on that. I understand the downside of giving out information because the union can as easily say, "The owner is getting too much money for the little bit he is putting into it, while we are doing all the work."

I think you will find that the biggest problem is distrust, and it is based on lack of information. Is there some information that can be made available to all people who work for ambulances in the province that would help that situation?

Dr. Dyer: The formula on the management compensation plan can be made available to all workers. They can figure out the call volume per year and they would then be able to calculate that amount.

Incidentally, if the manager moves some of that account into his operations, we do not have a problem with that; we just cannot move the money the other way.

Mr. Chairman: In my limited experience with it, it is distrust that causes the problem. What I would like to see is some way of removing that distrust. I think only the ministry can help. Certainly, the operator could open his books to it. Some of them, I understand, have done that, but I think the ministry is quite a bit of a partner in this thing and probably could be freer with information that would not hurt negotiations; in fact, it might help with negotiations.

Mr. Brand: To clear up that one point, I think we are talking about Collingwood and the request that was made there by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and a variety of other people. We did not even know who some of them were. They called and said: "Tell us what the budget is in Collingwood. What are the details?" We provided the bottom-line budget figure that is available in the public accounts book to those people who inquired. That was brought up again when we were before the Ontario Labour Relations Board, where the union is insisting on having put into evidence, detailed copies of the budget of the Collingwood ambulance service.

The operator's lawyer is resisting that because, as you can appreciate, there are some things in that line-by-line budget such as rents that he has negotiated on buildings and so on that you could consider to be confidential information. It is personal information.

As you say, if the operator wants to talk to his employees and open up his books, we do not have any problem with that, but that really is a matter between the operator and his employees. The ministry deals with him on one level.

Mr. Chairman: I am not talking about the line-by-line budget; I am talking about the management fee. I think all you have to do is persuade the union that the owner is entitled to his out-of-pocket expenses, if you want to call it that, plus the management fee. The management fee is where the doubt comes all the time.

Mr. Brand: As Dr. Dyer has already said, that is public information. That is a structure; it is a formula that is related to call volume. It is widely published, and I am sure it is in the hands of many people including the union because it has brought that figure up with us a number of times in negotiation and discussion.

Mr. Chairman: I am not suggesting you consider releasing information during negotiations, court cases, grievances or whatever; I am suggesting there is information that you might consider releasing on a regular basis when there are no negotiations to improve the level of trust out there. I still think that the biggest problem they have is trust.

Mr. Brand: I think there was a perception on the part of those employees, and maybe some others, that because the operator may have other interests or whatever that he had some flexibility. We have heard the word "profit" mentioned here earlier and that is not the case. I think they need to understand this is a cost operation. It is provided at cost to the ambulance service; that is what the value represents. There is no flexibility to keep some, move some somewhere else or whatever. It is very much controlled and subject to audit, inspection and so on.

Dr. Dyer: The other aspect of that is that the management compensation is truly for management and there are certain requirements with that. It is not just a figure he gets all by himself. Obviously, if the service is a large one, he will be required to hire secretaries and accountants out of that amount of money.

The union might perceive that as being negotiable. That does not go into the negotiable pot at all. That is a separate management compensation, and what it would use the figure for may be entirely misleading. It really is not a figure that he is required to negotiate with; it is a fixed formula that everybody gets in the province.

Mr. Chairman: I understand that.

Dr. Dyer: The union may not understand that, and I think we should try to clarify it. I think it would be worth our while, from what you said, to have meetings with the employees of various services and tell them the facts. I do not mind telling them the facts, but they should not be misled into believing that is a piece of the action they are entitled to, because they are not.

Mr. Brand: You can appreciate our position too when discussing things such as this. We have many employers out there in the ambulance service who really do not want any kind of

discussion with their employees and they take great exception to the fact that maybe the ministry is going to be disclosing something they do not want disclosed. It may be their right to make that decision themselves too.

Mr. Chairman: I would only ask you to consider it; my suggestion is to be freer with information, formulas or whatever as far as it affects the employees. I suggest to you—and it is not Collingwood—that there is a great level of mistrust out there and it is heightened by the fact that it is very difficult to get what I consider to be pretty basic information. I may be wrong, but I think there has been basic information that has been suppressed by the ministry in the past. It may have changed, but I think that again leads to it. As soon as you refuse certain information, under whatever conditions, and I understand you refused the line-by-line, that again heightens the mistrust.

I think you would find it much easier to deal with if you were a little more forward with whatever figures it seems sensible to release. End of suggestion.

3:50 p.m.

Dr. Dyer: It is interesting that you commented on the information that is important to the employees. In that sense, the management compensation is not even within the part of the negotiations they are involved in.

Mr. Chairman: I realize that.

Dr. Dyer: One could question the importance of having that particular piece of information. They certainly can have the information from the formula; we have no reason to hide that. They could also have the information about the total operating budget of that particular service.

Mr. Chairman: The question then is, do they have it?

Mr. Dyer: I guess they have the operating budget.

Mr. Brand: They got the operating budget from us and, as far as I know, nobody has specifically asked for the management compensation plan formula nor even the amounts of the services.

It is also my feeling, just knowing the people in the system, that they are already pretty well aware of the formula. That is something that has been around for a number of years and was subject to a great deal of discussion and negotiation with such groups as the Ontario Ambulance Operators Association and so on. I would imagine it is fairly widely known.

What may not be known, again, is something that maybe should not be known or is really of no concern to the ambulance attendants, and that is where the secretary's wages come from, how much is she paid, and so on. You can get into all kinds of arithmetic then and misinterpretations of the \$90,000 which sounds like a lot of money, except he may have to buy a Xerox copying machine, hire a secretary, hire a bookkeeper and so on.

If we say \$90,000 is in a service, there is an immediate impression that this man is putting \$90,000 into his own pocket. I am not saying that could not be the case, but it is highly unlikely in a complex business of that size.

I could bring a copy of the management compensation plan formula here. Maybe next week we will provide it to Dr. Dyer. It is just a one-page table.

Mr. Chairman: Have you any other issues?

Mr. Dean: Before the discussion on ambulances, I touched briefly on my interest in the assessment and placement systems. I know one of the best is in the Hamilton-Wentworth area. Knowing in a general way how that operates, I am wondering how the ministry is promoting that kind of service elsewhere. It seems to be very valuable.

What is the ministry doing about selection service, knowing where people, especially the old, should go to get the best treatment? What is it doing elsewhere in the province? I know your quippy answer half an hour ago, Mr. Minister, was that Mr. Van Horne will be making recommendations, but I am sure things have not ground to a halt waiting for that problematical report.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Gould has left us, but we have both Darwin Kealey and Paul Donoghue who may be able to respond.

Mr. Kealey: We currently have, I believe, 68 placement co-ordination services in place in the province. The plan is to phase in another couple each year, and to have a placement service established. There are a number of requirements other than the district health council recommendation. The requirement basically is a commitment from the hospitals, the nursing homes and other facilities that they will co-operate with the establishment of a placement service in their area. There is nothing binding these institutions to it, except the extent to which they arrive at that co-operative arrangement. Then we intend to move ahead with it.

Mr. Dean: If the service decides that patient X belongs in your institution, you must accept this?

Mr. Kealey: Yes. Another good example is the nursing homes, so they do not start to bicker over whether they are going to take this patient as opposed to that patient because of the level of care and that sort of thing. To be quite honest, it has been a very successful program. It is not a very expensive one.

Mr. Dean: I notice you do not have much money.

Mr. Kealey: A placement service only runs about \$30,000 to \$45,000, so it is not expensive. Most of them are run by one person, some of them by one and a half staff.

For example, in your area, a couple of weeks ago I was looking at the results of where they were placing patients. There was a significant increase in their placing of patients coming out of hospitals, and so unclogging that system. In the last year, in your area of the province, your placement co-ordination service placed something like 900 patients, which is a fair amount of movement. Some of them place a much lower number, some of them higher; but once that co-operative spirit is achieved among the institutions, they are very successful. They are relatively low-cost items for the benefit they produce for us.

Mr. Dean: That is what I have perceived as a layman, not having benefited from being made aware of how it was working and having had some very slight association with it. I am interested in the statistics you quoted, if I could have them. I take it that as the funds are available or as you find areas where you have agreement among the institutions on a procedure, you would develop it all across Ontario.

Mr. Kealey: Yes.

Mr. Dean: You said 16 places?

Mr. Kealey: There are 16 now; there are a couple more in the works that district health councils are recommending. As I say, one of the requirements is that they have a written commitment from the institutions that they want the service and that they will use the service.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Dean, they are having trouble picking you up. You are turning right around from the mike.

Mr. Dean: Okay. Sorry. Can we start over again?

Mr. Chairman: Sure.

Mr. Dean: That is why we have the lady who is so proficient in shorthand here.

Is it a tough job to get institutions to agree?

Mr. Kealey: No, it does not seem to be; it was only that the concept was so new when it was first introduced. Now we are finding community after community is moving into that mold. Last year, the three introduced were in Niagara, Waterloo and the London area. Those came in and were accepted last year and are in place. There are recommendations coming in this year as well for consideration. By and large, as the success rate of the program has developed, it is becoming much easier to sell and to get the commitment within.

Mr. Dean: I assume, without wanting to second guess what Mr. Van Horne is doing, it is very likely that this will be reinforced or encouraged, or does the minister know?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The response has indicated some favourable impressions, as you have expressed them. I am sure that is going to be uppermost in Mr. Van Horne's mind. Obviously, part of the exercise that he is going through right now is trying to co-ordinate our efforts to provide services and that is one component of the system. I do not want to anticipate what he is doing because I might not anticipate correctly, but we are looking at co-ordination and trying to be efficient in our deliberations. That mechanism is certainly open to us.

Mr. Dean: As more and more provisions for home care become available, I assume this will be one of the areas that the placement service will utilize, or do they do it already?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes, they do.

Mr. Dean: They do it now.

Dr. Dyer: I would like to add that a couple of the factors being looked at are bed registry plans, such as the one in Hamilton. Hamilton is the leading community in terms of co-operation between institutions and I think it should be proud of that. They initiated bed registration and that facilitates placement co-ordination immensely when you are trying to find available beds.

Mr. Dean: I am acquainted with how that works and it is—

Dr. Dyer: Excellent.

The other thing we are looking at, to facilitate the proper placement of patients, is the geriatric assessment units. There is a pilot project in Ottawa and that assessment unit will be one to which a physician, a community, an agency or hospital can refer a patient for assessment. They assess the total needs of that patient, whether they be institutional, social or otherwise. The unit will then be better able to direct the

placement co-ordination service as to what kind of services the particular patient needs. We are looking at various factors in terms of facilitating the further development and utilization of placement co-ordination as a service for patients, primarily.

Mr. Dean: Just one last question, Mr. Chairman. I see you looking towards the clock.

Mr. Chairman: I am trying to let Mr. Guindon have a moment or two.

Mr. Dean: Okay, well, this will be very short.
4 p.m.

Do the placement co-ordination services also perform assessments? I thought they did.

Dr. Dyer: No, they do not; they are just for placement co-ordination; assessment is an entirely different operation. That requires even greater co-operation by communities and facilities, etc., because there have to be the proper facilities and staff and a commitment on the part of certain individuals to make that assessment and to do it in a way that is not seen to be second-guessing a physician's initial assessment. It is seen to be an assistance to that physician in making a proper assessment of the total services available or required.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Guindon, we have five minutes more.

Mr. Guindon: I think I have enough time. I am sorry, maybe I should have interjected. My question has to do with ambulances.

Mr. Chairman: Go ahead.

Mr. Guindon: What is the total annual amount of payment by the ministry towards the management fee?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Across the province?

Mr. Guindon: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We would have to sit down and figure that out. Can we give that information to you next week?

Mr. Guindon: Yes. While you are at it, though, I have a little more to add to that. If I understood correctly, is the management fee only in certain areas, or is it right across the province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Right across.

Mr. Brand: Private ambulances only.

Mr. Guindon: Yes, where there are private ambulances.

Have you ever worked out the difference in ratio between the private ambulances and the government ambulances?

Mr. Brand: In terms of management cost?

Mr. Guindon: Yes.

Mr. Brand: As I said earlier, the plan was devised to more or less equate the management cost of a ministry-operated service with that of a private service, so we looked at services of a similar size doing roughly the same call volume, such as Ottawa and London. I am not sure they are that close, but you would find that the management compensation plan would be roughly equal to what we would pay in terms of management for that ministry-operated service, even recognizing the fact that we get the benefit of certain centralized services, such as computing. That was the whole basis of the formula in the first place.

Mr. Guindon: In other words, there is very little difference.

Mr. Brand: Very little. There may be some difference, as I say. Over the years, things may have changed a little in one place or another, but the basic concept was that they would be equal.

Mr. Guindon: What about difference in the service to the clients; for instance, from the time they get the call until the time they react to it. Is the service just as good?

Mr. Brand: I would say it averages, depending again on whether you are in an urban or a rural location. It comes down to something as basic as how far away from the nearest ambulance station one is when the call comes in. If it is 20 miles, it could be that it would take 20 minutes, but in general terms, the service is pretty uniform across the province, given the differences that would occur due to geographics, sparseness of population and so on. In a major centre, chances are they would be very close, within a minute, probably.

Mr. Guindon: My other question is who is in charge of the francophone services at the Ministry of Health right now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The francophone services? I am not sure what status the lady has. Is it Mrs. Howe?

Mr. Brand: Francophone services in ambulance services?

Mr. Guindon: Not necessarily. Who is in charge of francophone services in the Ministry of Health?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I met the lady about two weeks ago and I will get you her name later on. We have a co-ordinator, whom you probably know of, who resigned about two months ago and we are looking for a replacement for that co-ordinator, but I have met a person who has

recently come into our employ as well who is acting as a director at this point. I can provide you with that information later.

Mr. LeNeveu: The acting co-ordinator is Claire Miville-Howe. She was working in that section.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I did not know her first name.

Mr. Guindon: She is the co-ordinator now?

Mr. LeNeveu: Acting co-ordinator.

Mr. Guindon: Acting co-ordinator?

Mr. LeNeveu: Temporarily, yes.

Mr. Villeneuve: This is in replacement for Clément Sauvé?

Mr. LeNeveu: No, for Ron LeBlanc.

Mr. Guindon: How long will it be before a new co-ordinator is chosen? Do you have any idea?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Two things are happening. We are currently considering an upgrading in the designation of the position, before a call goes out, so we are in the process of doing that at the moment.

Mr. Guindon: You are thinking of upgrading the position?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As far as status is concerned.

Mr. Guindon: To what status, may I ask?

Hon. Mr. Elston: An early indication would be towards the assistant deputy minister level. I do not know what level it was originally contemplated to be. We are looking at as high a designation as possible.

Mr. Villeneuve: Is this not the level that Clément Sauvé was at when he was with the Ministry of Health? He was over there when I was parliamentary assistant to the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope).

Hon. Mr. Elston: But he was dealing with francophone services in general.

Mr. Villeneuve: Not restricted to the Ministry of Health.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is what I understood of his status and I understand there were some thoughts of placing—if you take a look at some of the organizational charts, the role was shown in broken lines—there but not there; in a planning mode, if you will. It had never received that status. That is what I understand to be the situation with him.

Mr. Chairman: We have exactly two and a half hours left, which we will commence at 9:30 a.m. next Wednesday.

The committee adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

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Dean, G. H., Vice-Chairman (Wentworth PC)

Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)

McCague, G. R., Chairman (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

From the Ministry of Health:

Brand, G., Director, Ambulance Services Branch

Dyer, Dr. A. E., Deputy Minister

Kealey, D. J., Assistant Deputy Minister, Community and Public Health

LeNeveu, R., Assistant Deputy Minister, Administration, Finance and Health Insurance



No. G-10

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Health

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, December 18, 1985

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, December 18, 1985

The committee met at 9:39 a.m. in Room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

Mr. Chairman: Can we come to order, please?

When we adjourned last week, I think we agreed to have the minister answer certain questions at the start of today's proceedings. Minister, would you proceed?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Which questions do you want answered off the top? That is the key point.

Mr. Chairman: All the ones we asked.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can do that, I guess. We have several items that were raised, by way of leading off and thinking we would get to some of these things. Obviously, we have not gotten to all of them.

For instance, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) asked about midwifery and its current status. Basically, we are going to be dealing with that one through the health professions legislation review. I am looking to Mr. Schwartz providing me with recommendations early in the new year.

We will be looking at the material submitted by the Midwifery Coalition and others. In addition, I have received material from the Ontario Medical Association and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

I am sure it will be the topic of discussion. That one is coming and will be dealt with fairly shortly after the new year's break.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Am I correct in understanding that he has now given you his list of which professions are to be included?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know what understanding you had, but I have not received his final recommendations yet.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, I do not mean his final recommendations, but there was a list of professions that were in and professions that were out, which was what the second cut—

Hon. Mr. Elston: The first cut has been finalized. That was done about a year ago, I think. The final determinations have not been—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Have not been given to you yet?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Those will be the things I will be receiving from him early in the new year.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Have you made any decision yet as to whether you would be open to the idea of sending out that report to this committee, the social development committee, or to some other committee of the House, before we come up with final legislation so we follow the same process that was used with the children's legislation? This is going to be a rather major move which will have an impact on the whole health care system.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In terms of legislation, I do not think there is any question that it will require considerable public input and the thoughts of the committee. I am willing to explore that with the members.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I was looking at two stages. First, the report or draft legislation, whatever form his report will take, would go to committee before the government was committed to any final legislation. That would give consumers and members of the Legislature an opportunity to make recommendations, and then we would see the legislation. That is the process Mr. Drea used with the children's legislation which members of the Legislature found to be quite helpful. The public also found it helpful to have a round of input.

Mr. Schwartz's process has been open as far as the professions are concerned, but closed in so far as ordinary people within our communities are concerned. It is not a process in which everyone was participating, but primarily the professions and some of the health advocacy groups.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What you are asking for is to have the committee do its review again.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Not the whole review, but to take a look at his report. He can take us through it, receive more public input and make recommendations to the minister based on his report.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not discussed that with Mr. Schwartz.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I remember discussing it with him about a year and half ago, when he thought it was a good idea.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not discussed it with him. I will raise it with him. In fact, I will make

an effort to contact him this week and see what his feeling is on that sort of process. If you do not mind, I hate to have this postponed again for several months while more study and work is done, after having taken a couple of years with a lot of expectations being built on decisions. That would not be helpful to the process.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not contemplating a lot more committee work and delay. On the other hand, we will probably not see a review of the health disciplines legislation for quite some time. If there are going to be major changes, which I think there probably will be, members of the Legislature should have the opportunity to participate, as well as a wider community.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In terms of the legislation, I do not think there is any question but that the members will have the opportunity and are in fact required to be involved in the draft of that legislation. My concern is that we will get into a process that will keep us for ever if you want to redo the Schwartz report.

So that I understand what you are asking, I do not want to have a two-year process come to a situation where we have recommendations, and have everybody in the province come before a legislative committee.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It would be the same type of process in which there was consultation within the Ministry of Community and Social Services for quite some time on the new children's legislation.

A green paper comparable to whatever report Mr. Schwartz presents to you was produced and then introduced into the Legislature by Mr. Drea and referred to the standing committee on social development. They had public hearings and made their recommendations, and it then went back to Mr. Drea. The green paper took the form of draft legislation. He then came in with the bill for second reading, which proceeded relatively quickly.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think we are at a stage where I could quickly circulate draft legislation. We are not in that situation, and I do not see how it could happen.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I must choose my words more carefully. You have been in cabinet for a few months and you pick up on—I am saying whatever report he comes up with.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am being very frank about this. I do not want to have this thing delayed.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not want that either.

Hon. Mr. Elston: If you want to go back and redo even the first—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We are talking about the final report he presents to you.

Hon. Mr. Elston: How long would you expect this review to take?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would expect that whatever committee it was referred to would have hearings on it for a few weeks, send it back to you with recommendations and then you would bring in your legislation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Maybe you do not quite understand what the process is. As I understand it, recommendations will be made to me as to groups that should be self-regulated; that is, included in the review or in the legislation.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Right.

Hon. Mr. Elston: At that point the process starts to develop mechanisms whereby legislation can be generated. You are telling me you want to have a review that will last several weeks even before we get to a stage of discussing scope of practice and possible determination of legislation for the purpose of implementing recommendations.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What exactly will the final report include? At one point he was even talking about his final report taking the form of draft legislation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: From what I understand, I will not get draft legislation when he reports to me. Maybe what he is talking about in terms of the final report is something that is not going to be brought to me. You are looking at draft legislation that is way down the road. I am not in a position to say draft legislation is even being contemplated at this stage, except in a general framework sense.

I am looking at making decisions on recommendations as to the final group of people to be included in the legislation. Is that what you want to review, or is it the legislation?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Whenever the final report comes in, there should be an opportunity—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Maybe we are talking about two entirely different things. His final report is not going to be this January.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: This is the second list.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. What he is doing is making recommendations of the groups that are going to be included.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When will his final report be ready?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I hope we will be working on scope of practice and that type of thing later this year—I am sorry, I mean next year, within the

calendar year starting January 1, 1986. I do not see any problem in that process. I just do not want to have that process delayed for any length of time. There is no real problem with being able to review draft legislation.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is what I am looking at. I am not looking at the second list. I am looking at before the government commits itself to legislation.

9:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have no problem with having committee involved in that, none at all.

You also raised the question about the Woods Gordon review of registered nursing assistants. I have met with that group several times. The ministry people have met with them several times to discuss utilization and to determine what could be done with respect to what appears to be a decrease in utilization. The report indicated there was a decrease in utilization of RNAs, with a resultant increase in registered nurses.

I guess there were about four recommendations which the Ministry of Health were directly asked to deal with, and we got the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower to review the report and the recommendations. It initially expressed some concern about the methodology used in the study, questions dealing with calculating the RNA attrition and assumptions regarding what roles and skills were to be used. From that standpoint, the committee is dealing with those four, and it will be providing me with some further input.

As a minister, I recognize the role of RNAs and have been watching quite closely as RNA registrants increased over the last little while. I have seen that occur. There are some facilities that have made some determinations that they want to take an opportunity of reviewing their use of RNAs. There are couple of facilities, in fact, that have opted to go with RNs. I am not sure which those are. I think one is Ottawa Civic.

Mr. Reid: Ottawa Civic in some sections.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Ottawa Civic in some sections of its hospital. I think the new Owen Sound facility also has made a decision along those lines.

In any event, we have more RNAs working in Ontario now; at least in 1984 there were more than there were in 1983. In fact, there are some increases in the utilization of RNAs. The number I have here is 1,456 more RNAs working in 1984 than there were in 1983.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Do you have a breakdown? I take it there has been a decrease in the numbers

in hospitals and an increase in the numbers in nursing homes and homes for the aged.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Reid, you might be able to provide us with a little more information. I think the acute care hospital sections ratios have declined in terms of the usage.

Mr. Reid: In hospitals, the overall number of RNAs employed has actually gone up. It is down by about 70 in acute care, but in the rest there has been an increase of more than 500 in chronic and rehabilitation, with the balance in nursing homes and homes for the aged.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: With regard to recommendation 6, which basically calls for the Ministry of Health's advisory committee to just monitor, that monitoring is going on so statistics are produced and are available on an annual basis?

Mr. Reid: That is correct.

Mr. McKessock: I had a question pertaining to the extra billing legislation. May I bring that in now?

Mr. Chairman: I think we are on a slightly different line here for a few moments, if you do not mind.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have a number of questions that were raised in introductory remarks from Mr. Cooke and Mr. Pope. I got the sense there were a whole lot of questions that were thrown on the table.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Can we quickly run through the other two recommendations that I thought applied? One of them was that the Ontario Ministry of Health should co-operate with the Ontario Hospital Association and nursing organizations in funding independent research on the need for all-RN staff and the cost-effectiveness of different nursing models in a variety of hospital settings.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think the committee has initially, in the review, indicated general support for that recommendation. It may be we would have to take a more global view of utilization of services in the hospitals to see how everybody fits into that. There is a sympathy there, as I understand it from the initial review by the committee.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It seems to me that if anything has cost implications for the ministry obviously you should be involved in formulating that policy. The concern that some of us have is that certain hospitals make decisions on staff mix and the ministry does not necessarily have direct input, the board makes that decision. Since eventually you will be picking up the bill,

perhaps it would be better to look at an overall policy from the ministry, based on good information.

I do not think there is a lot of good information available about what is really happening. I have read this study as well. It is probably a good start. With respect to overall mix in hospitals, it probably would be worth while to have more detailed research.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was asking Mr. Reid for comments. Obviously, I have concerns about how far we go in setting out mandated decisions—in other words, having the province say: “You will have a mix of X and Y and that is how your budget is going to be determined. If you do not have the mix, then you will be penalized.”

It is a difficult question when you try to consider the autonomy of the boards and their freedom to make decisions about the style of operation in their hospitals.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On the other hand, it is not particularly good that a hospital can make a decision and eventually you pick up the bill.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There are reasons for these decisions, there are considerable discussions between that hospital and the institutions branch of our ministry. It is a co-operative effort at this point. There is not really a dictation of style of delivery of service as long as we have found it is efficient.

There are areas in which suggestions are made about how people might examine whether or not policies are working in the way they are supposed to. We have never really got to the stage of saying, “You will.”

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not suggesting there is policy that can be implemented all across Ontario that is written in stone. However, there can be a philosophy and a position the ministry can take.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You do not want us to set ratios or anything like that, do you?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No. Every hospital has a different mix, depending on the makeup of the community and what particular health problems they have in that community. Different hospitals vary in different ways. Right within my own community, there are different priorities for different hospitals. I am not sure the same priority could apply to each and every hospital.

The registered nursing assistants are seeing ad hoc decisions being made, not necessarily based on either good information or on what could really occur if we had a proper mix of registered nursing assistants and registered nurses and other professional staff as well.

Hon. Mr. Elston: On the basis of the need for study, we are willing to take a peek at that. The committee has some sympathy with it. It may be a question of determining how far the study is mandated. I cannot imagine looking at only one provider group in a hospital setting without examining a fairly large number.

We dealt with birthing centres. We advised earlier that we had made some preliminary contacts. There have been some ongoing contacts and there is willingness to discuss pilot projects in relation to birthing centres. We talked about that earlier.

I do not know whether we dealt very well with the public health units and the strike situation. We dealt with it generally. I do not know if you want anything more on that one. Right now, the Kent-Chatham unit is the last remaining one.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is the only one that is out now.

10 a.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is there any consideration being given by the ministry to reviewing the current funding arrangements? In Toronto, cost sharing is 60:40. In the rest of the province, it is 75:25. Eventually, it would be more appropriate to have public health units funded not out of property taxes but provincial government revenues. Is there any consideration that will be reviewed?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I guess in terms of pressure on this matter it is an ongoing one. I have met with the boards in a couple of areas in Toronto. In addition, there is a general feeling in the Association of Ontario Boards of Health right across the province that there is a need to review them with respect to funding and the programs they are being required to deliver.

I do not know what is sitting on the table at this moment. I have been looking at various concerns expressed by the association, individual boards and some of the medical officers of health. Some representations have been made by the Ontario Nurses' Association.

Mr. Kealey: Although there is ongoing discussion from time to time, particularly with Metro on its level of funding, to make the adjustment would require about \$18 million; that is, if they dropped some of their contribution and we raised ours to that 75 per cent.

The sense is that this is not where the pressure point is in public health, because Metro Toronto is fairly well financed and has a much broader range of programs than most other health units.

At this time, we are trying to ensure we have adequate funding for the introduction of the core programs across the province to deal with the public health needs in general. The Metro question comes up from time to time, but it is not the one we are concentrating on at the moment.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am looking at an overall reform of funding of public health instead of a reliance to any degree on property taxes. I do not know what public health has to do with property. Why does any of the money come from property taxes? Is that policy being reviewed at all?

Every time we get into a labour dispute, even though you say it is a local board that is involved the reality is that negotiations are hampered by the fact the ministry controls the purse-strings. Once local municipalities have set their mill rates and budgets they are not about to change those because of a set of negotiations. In negotiations and public health policy, it would be a much more satisfactory method if it was funded at 100 per cent.

I do not think there would be any disagreement with the public health boards over that. Every time I meet with public health boards and public health nurses, there seems to be universal agreement, and there was an agreement with your former Health critics that public health should be funded by the province and not by municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In a sense, public health has been looked upon initially as a municipal area of responsibility. What we have been doing is providing a grant towards carrying out those responsibilities.

The Metro difference in funding results from a sense it has expanded into areas the other parts of the province have not. Their community needs are different from those in other parts of the province. We provide them with the same grant on the basis of programs, if I understand it correctly. In Metro Toronto, they have provided program expansions into areas they have decided to pick up from their tax base.

What you are really proposing is a change in the underlying basis of public health efforts, to remove it from the community, at least from the local or municipal area, and bring it into a whole provincial area.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There would still have to be a local health board.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As Mr. Reid just pointed out, there is no single board in Metro. There are differences in approach as well for communities.

Mr. Pope: Maybe we can short-circuit this discussion. You are saying you are not going to change the basic policy for funding.

Hon. Mr. Elston: At this moment, there is no change contemplated.

Mr. Chairman: Can we go to the questions surrounding the nursing home deaths in London, on which Mr. D. S. Cooke and Mr. Pope both had questions?

Hon. Mr. Elston: What questions were they?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Pope asked about the decision on charges. Will they be before or after the inquest and will there be a public inquiry after the inquest or not?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Basically, I have not completed a review of all the material, but in terms of making a final decision I am really looking at a fairly open and wide-ranging review at the inquest. For us to make a final determination at this point might have some impact on what was examined at the inquest.

I am looking for that, as I said earlier, to be a fairly comprehensive review of that entire situation. I do not want to impact upon that by contemplating whether or not the charges are going to be finally laid. I can tell you a little bit about where charges might be laid, I suppose.

The Styliadis report has been used as an area where we might lay some charges. It could be used as a basis for that. Under section 76 or 21 of regulation 690 that report could stand as a basis for charges under those sections.

Mr. Pope: Are you saying it could because of the substance of the report?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. Pope: If, based on the report's findings, it indicates charges could be laid, why are they not being laid?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, I do not think it suggested that charges be laid necessarily. Dr. Styliadis laid out concerns he found on September 20, but he did not recommend charges.

Mr. Pope: But you just said "based on the findings"—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Those are the areas we could look at.

Mr. Pope: If you are now saying, which I heard you say and that is why I asked you to repeat that, that the factual findings of the doctor indicate to you that charges could be laid, why are they not being laid?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That would be my—

Mr. Kealey: Hypothetically, the question is, under what legislation could charges be laid if there was cause for them to be laid? I think the minister is saying there is potentially two ways one could go. One would be under the Nursing

Homes Act, if there was cause, and the other one would be under the food premises regulation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have not got to that one yet, but that is right.

Mr. Pope: There is nothing in the report itself that has triggered a decision in the ministry to lay charges?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Not at this time.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What you are saying is you are going to wait for the coroner's inquest. Is it normal that a coroner's inquest would be used to determine whether or not charges are going to be laid? Based on the reports that have come into your ministry, have the Nursing Homes Act or the Health Protection and Promotion Act or the food premises regulation been violated in the view of your legal staff?

Mr. Kealey: As you know, the situation was investigated from an epidemiological point of view going back with this statistical study to determine the times and areas of outbreak. They try to determine through that the probable causes. They knew that the disease involved was E coli.
10:10 a.m.

Based on their statistic analysis, they were able to trace it back from an epidemiological point of view. In their best professional opinion, the source of it was the ham sandwiches on September 5. They did not at any time find contaminated meat or anything of that nature; so it is an epidemiological probability that this was the cause of the origin and the transmission of the disease in the home.

What they are saying is in all probability that is how E coli spread to the patients within that home. That is fundamentally different to going in and finding a hunk of contaminated meat in the freezer, where they could say this was the contaminated meat.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When Dr. Styliadis went into the home on September 20 and then returned again a few days later, on both occasions he found, in his view, major concerns about cleanliness in the kitchen and how food was being stored. There were 25 concerns on the one day. The other ones were not numbered, but there were a number of concerns the second time he went back. Obviously there were some violations of the Nursing Homes Act, based on his report, and some violations, I gather, of the food premises regulation.

If that is the case, why do we need to wait for the coroner's inquest to lay charges. The two are quite separate. A coroner's inquest is supposed to determine cause of death and methods to prevent

similar deaths in the future. Charges under the act are laid because the act has been violated.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is not unusual, in assessing what has occurred, to look at laying charges within the six-month period after an infraction is found. In this case, that is going to be March 20, 1986; so there is ample room for us to make a determination in light of what is found at the inquest.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What is unusual is that 19 people died—

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no question about that. There is no question that it is a catastrophe for the people in the province.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: For six months or so to go by before a determination is made of whether or not charges are going to be laid does not give a very good message to nursing home operators in this province, or residents.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The 19 deaths resulted from an event that occurred on September 5. What you are talking about is laying charges on the basis of a report as a result of inspections on September 20.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Which flowed from the deaths which likely occurred because of somebody not handling food properly. Several days after the outbreak the nursing home was still not handling food properly. To me that is substantial grounds for laying charges.

Mr. Pope: We are not talking about criminal negligence charges or anything like that at this time. Sure, some of those decisions flow from a coroner's inquest or information or findings of fact at coroner's inquest. We are just talking about simple charges that there was breach of provincial law with respect to handling the food or some provision of the Nursing Homes Act or regulations. We are talking about technical violations of standards of care.

We are not talking about the criminal aspects, whether those would or would not be laid. We are talking about the technical violations. That is what we are getting at. Why are you sitting back on those technical violations?

Hon. Mr. Elston: You have determined that there are technical violations. What you want us to do is decide whether or not there were technical violations, is that it?

Mr. Pope: Dr. Styliadis made some report with respect to the way food was being handled by that facility, the factual findings as he saw them when he went there that day.

Hon. Mr. Elston: All I can tell you is that we have been through some of it and people are

coming back to me with further information. Our staff has been reviewing the basis on which we might be successful on the material laid out in the report. At this point, the determination has just not been made.

Mr. Pope: We are not talking about major criminal charges. We are talking about whether what Dr. Styliadis found when he went into that home is true or not. Are you saying that Dr. Styliadis's findings of fact are not true?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am asking my people to determine whether or not we can be successful with respect to what is in that report. That is the determination they are going to be making. In many cases, we could be provided with more material, which could make that determination easier. That is all I am saying.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If you cannot get a conviction based on his report with respect to how food is handled, not only based on the Elm Tree decision but the Nursing Homes Act, then we might as well say the whole thing is unenforceable and just throw up our hands and say to heck with it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have not done that, even with respect to Elm Tree Nursing Home. We are trying to improve in the areas where we can make these things enforceable. In my review of this matter, I have done some things I think bolster our ability to ensure quality of care. We are co-ordinating our services much better now; for instance, the public health units with the nursing home branch. We are developing food-handling guidelines that are either out or shortly will be out.

I have done things as a result of this. It has not been as if we sat back with respect to the reports by Dr. Styliadis. I have asked our people to be very sure about the basis on which we can proceed with charges. They are providing me with that input. As soon as I have a feeling that we have every piece of information we need for a final determination, a determination will be made.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Which is it then? Is it the coroner's inquest you are waiting for or a report from your staff?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Basically, I am looking to the coroner's inquest to provide a final run-through in some of the areas that are of concern. I am holding my options open until that inquest has been held.

Mr. Pope: You were just saying that you do not have a report from staff yet.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have talked with staff. I do not want to indicate to the committee there have not been deliberations by staff, that they have refused to talk about it or anything such as that. It is there and it is being done. I have not had a final report. People are working very hard on this stuff. They are not only working on this incident; they are also working hard to upgrade and provide us with a better way of ensuring quality care in our nursing homes right across Ontario.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It would be much more satisfactory if you were to say you are waiting for final recommendations from your staff than to say you are waiting for the coroner's inquest. I do not see where the two have to be related. Dr. Styliadis's report is absolutely clear and devastating on the nursing home and should be dealt with. The message that is being sent out and the way this case is being dealt with is that delays are going to occur and a home that breaks the act will not be brought to justice quickly. You are following a very unnecessary process.

Mr. Pope: Has the matter been referred to a special prosecutor yet?

Mr. Kealey: It has been reviewed by our legal branch. As I pointed out last week, our special prosecutor joined us only in November. It is not being dealt with by our special prosecutor. It is being handled by one of the lawyers in the legal branch who has looked at it.

Mr. Pope: Is he going to represent the ministry and the government in all court proceedings or will there be someone else?

Mr. Kealey: He will be involved in the inquest preparations.

Mr. Pope: That is not what I asked.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you mean, would he be involved in the prosecution?

Mr. Pope: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I suspect he probably would be, but would liaise with the special prosecutor. That is his role; the prosecutor is there to do that.

Mr. Pope: The special prosecutor will be employed at the appropriate time, but has not been consulted yet.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think that is fair. He has just arrived on the scene.

Mr. Chairman: The question was asked whether the decision on charges would be before or after the inquest. I guess you are saying it will be after, and there will not be a public inquiry following the inquest.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have not said that.

Mr. Pope: He has not decided.

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: When we find out what has gone through in terms of material, there may be areas of deficiency in that that I would like to have in terms of a review.

The other area I have been quite adamant about is the external review of the branch, how we have performed and our ability to perform in enforcing quality-of-care items in nursing homes. That is taking place. As to a public inquiry with respect to London Extendicare, in fairness, I will make a determination if there is a concern by the public that we have not been able to look into the area sufficiently or thoroughly enough. If there are areas into which the inquest did not delve, then I am quite open to address those. We may have an inquiry to address those areas which are deficient, rather than going through the whole gamut of the event; but those two determinations will await the inquest.

To repeat, with respect to the Styliadis report, charges do not have to be laid and a decision does not have to be made until March 20. For other events, six months is our limitation period. We are well within that time.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am not worried about the time. I am worried that we need to go the full length of the time limit. The minister is saying he will go the full length because he is going to wait for the coroner's inquest. That is totally unnecessary and it gives a wrong message to the nursing home community and the people of the province on what was the biggest major tragedy of illness and death in nursing homes in the province.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We may disagree on that but I appreciate your perspective. We will probably have to leave it at that.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke also asked for a detailed response outlining the complete chronology of the matter over the past three months. I do not know whether that is still important to him. If it is, maybe you would undertake to give it to him. Could it be given in writing or is it something you want to pursue further today?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Would it be more efficient for us to have that made available to Mr. Cooke and Mr. Pope as critics of their respective parties? Mr. Pope is laughing again. Is something happening that we do not know about?

Mr. Pope: One never knows.

Mr. Chairman: You have to be careful if you smile or laugh here.

Hon. Mr. Elston: This week I mentioned to the critic for the Progressive Conservative Party—he is chuckling to himself about something that is or is not about to take place—that I was going to write to the chairman of this committee and Mr. Pope again erupted into a little fit of laughter. I am wondering whether these two gentlemen are going to be with us.

Mr. Pope: It was just wishful thinking at that time.

Mr. Dean: Do you not know the expression, "Laugh and the world laughs with you"?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Who knows what will happen.

Mr. Chairman: Be careful, Minister, or we will add five minutes to this.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I said I would write to the critics. I have been distracted, I am sorry. Do I also present that to the clerk for distribution to the other members or is it sufficient to the two critics?

Mr. Chairman: The two would be satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will do that.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke asked for the list of mental health facilities capable of treating head-injured persons. I do not believe that has been answered to this point.

Hon. Mr. Elston: David Corder has information for us.

Mr. Chairman: Before Mr. Corder answers this, there may be other unanswered questions which result from the opening statements in each case. I will go as far as I have noted here and then go to you.

Mr. Corder: In a review of this issue right across the province to prepare the response, we have identified the following specialized treatment centres: the Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre in Toronto; Sunnybrook trauma and rehabilitation program in Toronto; University Hospital in London; Victoria Hospital, London; Chedoke-McMaster in Hamilton; Kingston General Hospital; Ottawa Civic Hospital and the Ottawa General Hospital.

Beyond the acute phase of the treatment for this kind of injury, there are some specialized programs of a longer term. They are located at the Riverdale Hospital here in Toronto, which is an extension of the Sunnybrook program; the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Toronto; West Park Hospital, Toronto; and St. Vincent Hospital in Ottawa.

There are some specialized community-based programs, such as Dale House in London, Cheshire Homes of London Inc. and Ashby House in Toronto. That is the list from across the province that we have been able to identify.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I might point out that the majority of the programs you mentioned at the beginning were the acute care programs where the patient would go when the injury took place. What we are really lacking is the follow-up. To have two rehabilitation programs in Toronto and one in Ottawa does not exactly make this type of service available to people across the province.

In the cases I have dealt with, medical people in my community never once made a referral to Toronto. It was only through my office that assistance was received at Queen Elizabeth. That is when I met and talked with Dr. J. Dorman.

This is a major problem. While it may affect a relatively small number of people, the statistics I have looked at have been fairly substantial.

We have to start looking at some other community-based programs. These people are just wandering the streets. Most of these people from my area have been treated at St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital. The former patient advocate, the one with whom I dealt and who is no longer with St. Thomas, admits and agrees that it is a totally inadequate program. There are not the services that are needed for patients with head injuries.

I encourage the minister, if he has not already, to meet with people like Dr. Dorman, who has a really good understanding of the whole problem, the immediate problem when the injury takes place and the follow-up.

Dr. Dorman tells me that the longer it is before someone gets into rehabilitation, the less likely it is that rehabilitation will have any positive impact whatsoever.

I do not know how quickly people in Toronto get into rehabilitation programs, but for people outside of Toronto who are not aware of the programs or whose doctors are not aware of the programs, it is usually years before the situation reaches the point where somebody might find his way to Queen Elizabeth Hospital or someplace outside of his home community.

I ask the minister to take a look at what I consider to be a really sad situation for some of these families and to see if a program or a policy could be developed to expand some of these services in other areas of the province so that other communities can have the same access to some relatively good programs.

It does not seem to be even in the programs that you have mentioned. According to Dr. Dorman, the continuum of care does not really exist in Ontario right now, and as long as we do not have that we are not going to have a successful rehabilitation component for these individuals.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have met and spoken briefly with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and we have addressed some concerns. There is an interministerial committee looking at ways of dealing with this.

I would like to make a comment from the experience of a constituent of mine, a young man. I guess this is what makes this an even more difficult problem. We have very healthy young adults coming out of traumas in car accidents. They are being referred from my area. There is far more ability now because of the way our emergency services are set up to get these people into the facilities where the response to their needs, from an acute standpoint, is more immediate. Also a follow-up is much more immediate than it was.

In regard to the introduction of rehabilitation, I think it is more immediate now than it was before.

10:30 a.m.

You are talking about post-hospital rehabilitation, I suspect. This young man, for instance, went to University Hospital in London and was in a rehabilitation program there. He was then transferred back to the Wingham and District Hospital and he was in rehabilitation there, physiotherapy and things like that, so the response to his needs was immediate because of the way our system worked to transfer him into University Hospital. The awareness factor is not as big a problem, but it may be that we do not have enough community placement.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am sure the Wingham hospital would be the same as the hospitals in my area. They may be able to deal with physiotherapy and some of those aspects of rehabilitation, but the emotional component is not dealt with unless there is a specialized service. In smaller communities, necessarily, it is impossible to provide this component, so it has to be done on a regional basis.

Even on a regional basis, however, the only thing in southwestern Ontario is the Dale House, which has been open for only a few months now, and already I gather there is a significant waiting list.

According to Dr. Dorman, they are even looking at improving the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital program. There is the concept—the medical side, the physiotherapy and occupational therapy—but there is also the emotional component, which is not present in most of the programs. Then there is the follow-up in the community, not just group home placement but a real rehabilitation facility, such as the Ashby House group in Toronto, as well as Dale House. There are not a lot of them around and the waiting list is huge.

The major tragedy is that in many cases we are dealing with young people whose lives are in front of them. From an economic point of view, if we can do the best job possible for rehabilitation then obviously the economy is going benefit and the budgets are going to benefit as well, instead of having someone dependent for the rest of his or her life on a disability pension.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In some cases, we will have to recognize that because of the nature of the injuries we will have those people. I cannot say we will ever be able, through rehabilitative processes or continuum of care, to bring every person who has suffered from a trauma or brain injury back into a position where he will be able to work full time.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I agree.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There are always shortcomings from that standpoint. I have met parents of these young people. They recognize that. What they are looking at now is providing the very best accommodation so that the young people can be as independent as possible.

I do not want to leave people with the impression we can totally rehabilitate all these people.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The rehabilitation is all relative. It is a matter of achieving as much as possible. Right now, I do not think we are able to do that with the spotty services that are available.

Some people have access to them; some are not able to have access. Coming all the way to Toronto from Windsor quite often means that if you are on a waiting list the situation will deteriorate; the person may be on the run or sleeping in the streets. Then the hospital phones and says it has a bed available, and the parent says, "I do not even know where my son is." So the hospital says, "We have 10 or 20 other people on the waiting list; we will get one of them and we will put your son at the bottom of the waiting list."

That is what happens. We lose a lot of these people because they cannot have quick access to the service and their conditions deteriorate. The services are spotty and they are not comprehen-

sive across the province. It is an area we have to look at.

In Detroit, for example, not only do they have the immediate emergency care and some follow-up rehabilitation programs and rehabilitation group homes, they also have a series of groups for parents and families.

Mr. Chairman: One other point that was raised was a public relations document regarding the whole matter of ambulance services that the members of the Legislature might have to assist in doing a bit of public relations in this area. Whatever you can give us, as members, would be valuable.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I just got through doing a letter that is addressed to you.

Mr. Chairman: I will see whether it does the job, but a lot of people out there seem to have difficulty understanding the system. There may be people in the community who do not want them to understand the system and we could help you, and in turn help ourselves.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I know I did sign a letter to you, Mr. Chairman, outlining some of the concerns you had raised last week. I was not aware I was supposed to bring it here, but I can make it available to you if you want to provide me with comment; I can then make it available to members of the committee, if you wish.

Mr. Chairman: I hesitate to ask when it will be here.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I signed it yesterday.

Mr. Chairman: I was not blaming you.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, but what I can do is go back and take a look at where it is. I will bring it to you, if I can find it, even this afternoon when we are in the House.

Mr. Chairman: I remember some of your colleagues in times past commenting on the great mail service we have around here. Mr. Pope had a much bigger question on the new services that resulted from the 8.3 per cent increase in the health budget. He wanted that on a hospital-by-hospital basis. If that looks too long, it probably can be provided in the same manner as the chronology.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Perhaps Mr. Reid can go through that.

Mr. Reid: I did earlier answer the question of how the 8.3 per cent was comprised. There was one element of misunderstanding. The 8.3 per cent refers to 1986-87, not to 1985-86. Given that we are debating the 1985-86 estimates, the list I prepared to be given to the chairman relates

to the new programs that are incorporated in the 1985-86 estimates, as opposed to what is in the 8.3 per cent.

At this time, we have a block of money included within the 8.3 per cent which has yet to be ratified by Management Board if cabinet approves its specific allocation. I am quite prepared to give you the list for 1985-86.

Mr. Pope: Just give me a copy.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually, it is not that long. We could even read it into the record.

Mr. Hennessy: I would like the list myself for the Thunder Bay area.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We could read through the list; then we can photocopy it and send it to each person, if you wish.

Mr. Pope: Yes, do that. I do not have any follow-up questions on it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In 1985-86, approved capital—

Mr. Chairman: The clerk will just do a photocopy.

Mr. Pope: The minister was to get back to us this week with respect to Dr. Morgentaler.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I said last week I would look into the questions you had raised in the context of providing the information I could, considering the difficulties with confidentiality. I have been provided with the exceptions and the circumstances in which I can provide that information. Mr. LeNeveu, do you want to provide us with that?

The only thing that was reported was something in the Toronto Daily Star last week which said Dr. Morgentaler had about 200 claims. Other than that, Mr. LeNeveu will address this. Perhaps I could go through subsection 44(1) of the Health Insurance Act, which indicates that:

"The general manager and each person engaged in the administration of this act and the regulations shall preserve secrecy with respect to all matters that come to his knowledge in the course of his employment or duties...and any insured services rendered and the payments made therefor, and shall not communicate any such matters to any other person except as otherwise provided in this act."

There are some exceptions under subsection 44(2)(a) to (e); they include subpoenas by courts under which information can be provided. It can also be provided to the person who has provided the service or the solicitor for that person, in proceedings under the act or the regulations, or if there were charges in connection with the

administration of the Health Disciplines Act, the Public Hospitals Act or other like matters.

In that situation, we are excluded from providing—

10:40 a.m.

Mr. Wiseman: Can you tell us if he has been paid for any abortions?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can tell you he has not been paid for abortions.

Mr. Pope: Let us try this again, gentlemen. We are talking about someone who has publicly stated that he is operating a free-standing clinic that is providing abortion services. That is on the public record. It has been in the Star and the Globe and Mail for the past three years. He is publicly on record as stating that he is operating a free-standing abortion clinic.

Not even dealing with his attitude towards the Criminal Code, about which he is also on public record, and that should have alerted you by itself, he has made public statements about whether he agreed with the Criminal Code with respect to therapeutic abortions and intended to abide by it. He has made public statements of which you, as minister, have to be aware.

However, even setting that issue aside, you have a man who is openly and admittedly operating a free-standing clinic contrary to the regulations, the laws and the policies of your ministry, and you issue him an OHIP registration number to carry on services in that clinic contrary to your own regulations and laws. Can you explain that to me?

I was not referring to the breach of laws with respect to the abortion laws and the Criminal Code; I was referring to the fact that he is operating a facility contrary to your own regulations and you give him money to do it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We also provide money for anybody who is entitled to practise in the province, who has a licence to practise and to carry out examinations. As long as he had undertaken to practise only with respect to provision of insured services with respect to the OHIP number, it was our judgement, with respect to his application for an OHIP number that he had to receive one. If he were convicted—

Mr. Pope: I read the Health Insurance Act as well, and I would like to ask you whether you think Dr. Morgentaler is a "legally qualified medical practitioner lawfully entitled to practise medicine in the place where medical services are rendered by him." Are you saying he is lawfully entitled to practise medicine in a free-standing abortion clinic in this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: He is certainly able to provide insured services.

Mr. Pope: This is a definition from your own act, a definition of a physician who qualifies under the Health Insurance Act; definition clause 1(k) says, "'physician' means a legally qualified medical practitioner lawfully entitled to practise medicine in the place where medical services are rendered by him." He is not "lawfully entitled to practise medicine in the place where medical services are rendered by him." He is operating a free-standing clinic. How does that qualify him as a physician under the Health Insurance Act?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Would that not come under the Health Disciplines Act and whether or not he has not lost his licence to practise?

Mr. Pope: No, it does not.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There may be a difference of opinion. Mr. Pope may have a different reading or interpretation of that section than was provided when we were doing the analysis in the ministry.

Mr. Pope: I am just reading the words of the act.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is your interpretation of that.

Mr. Pope: No, it is not; I am just reading the words in the definition section. The words stand on their own; I am not giving them any meaning. It talks about where he renders medical services. He renders medical services, by his own admission, on Harbord Street.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right; billing numbers are issued by location.

Mr. Pope: And that is the place from which the OHIP billings are coming and to which the money is sent.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. Pope: Okay. That is one issue; whether he fits under the definition of physician, which again is subclause (k) in the definition section. There is a long-standing policy, and I assume you agree with it, against free-standing clinics; at least, that is the inference from your press comments last week.

Second, was the issue of his registration referred to the general manager, and from the general manager was it referred to the medical review committee, under the act?

Mr. LeNeveu: No, it was not referred to the medical review committee.

Mr. Pope: Why not?

Mr. LeNeveu: Why would it be referred to the medical review committee?

Mr. Pope: Under section 24.

Mr. LeNeveu: We do not refer doctors registered in Ontario. The registration of doctors practising in Ontario is done by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

Mr. Pope: I am not talking about registration of doctors to practise medicine; I am talking about qualifying for payment under the Health Insurance Act.

Mr. LeNeveu: It is my impression that if you are registered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons you are entitled to practise medicine in Ontario and, once that is done, as long as you are rendering insured services you are entitled to payment. All physicians are entitled to payment for rendering insured services in Ontario, and it does not relate to the setting. Many practitioners may have an office in one location and render services in another—in a hospital clinic, a home or whatever—as long as they are insured services.

Mr. Pope: Factual information was specifically drawn to your attention which indicates by his own admission that the only place he is carrying on practice is at this free-standing clinic, and you know that is contrary to the regulations. He is not legally entitled to render medical services in that facility; it is a free-standing clinic.

Mr. LeNeveu: That is insured services?

Mr. Pope: Yes.

Mr. LeNeveu: He is not entitled to render insured services?

Mr. Pope: In that place.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You would not object if he were doing it next door; is that what you are telling me now?

Mr. Pope: That would be a free-standing clinic as well. It has to be in a public hospital.

Mr. Cooke: You are talking about two different things. He is not being compensated for doing abortions.

Mr. Pope: I am not dealing with that issue at all.

Hon. Mr. Elston: However, are you saying that anybody who does a procedure that is maybe preliminary to abortion is actually practising in a free-standing clinic?

Mr. Pope: He is practising in a free-standing abortion clinic, by his own admission in public statements. Knowing that is in breach of your provincial regulations and laws and of the federal laws, you do not change the policy. The policy is still there, the laws and regulations are still there

and you give him an OHIP number when he is publicly saying this is what he is doing.

There is no doubt about the factual situation, by his own admission. That is the point I am trying to make; not which services are insured or not insured. I am talking about the fact that he is operating a clinic, contrary to the laws, and that clearly puts him outside the definition of physician in the act. Your response to me on the last question means subsection 24(2) does not mean anything.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually, if you look at subsection 24(2), it deals with the situation when there has been a submission of a claim, and the duty of the general manager when there is a dispute with respect to insured services is to submit it to the medical review committee.

Mr. LeNeveu: It specifies when "all or part of the insured services were not in fact rendered; all or part of such services were not medically necessary; all or part of such services were not provided according with accepted medical standards and practice...." It deals with whether insured services were appropriately rendered.

Mr. Pope: So you are saying it is accepted professional standard and practice for the doctors of the province to operate free-standing abortion clinics.

Mr. LeNeveu: I am just saying I read what section 24 deals with in insured services.

Mr. Pope: So did I, and you are saying the general manager had no jurisdiction to refer this to a medical review committee because, in your judgement, it is acceptable professional standards and practice under clause (c) to carry on a free-standing abortion clinic.

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That very point, though, is what is being determined in the courts.

Mr. Pope: No, it is not.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Sure it is.

Mr. Pope: No, it is whether the abortions are contrary to the Criminal Code.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That will determine the response, I suspect, as to whether that physician is licensed to practise in Ontario, whether he is violating—

Mr. Pope: No, that has nothing to do with it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect, your interpretation and mine could be different.

Mr. Pope: No; with respect, we are talking about whether you carry on a free-standing abortion clinic, even if, in that clinic, only therapeutic abortions are being performed under

the provisions of the Criminal Code and under the terms of the decision-making process that has to be gone through antecedent to the therapeutic abortions; even if that were the case the existence of the clinic as a free-standing abortion clinic is contrary to the regulations and laws.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What was done up until the time you formed the government? How were things handled with Dr. Morgentaler? Were there any actions taken by the previous government? I remember a former minister saying he was going to take action, but I do not remember action ever being taken.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think any action was ever taken. I took a look at the correspondence that was generated before. Mr. Pope indicated he had refused. I was not able to locate any correspondence to that effect. It may never have been generated, but it may have been a decision that he made in the office.

I did not have any information that I could find where any former ministers took any action. The only action that I can tell you and the public about is the fact that another physician, Dr. Scott, who is well known to be associated with Dr. Morgentaler, was provided with a billing number for the same area by the previous government on May 17, 1985.

Mr. Pope: No, you had better provide those documents.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can provide you with the correspondence.

Mr. Pope: I know for a fact that the only issue discussed then was cards, not a registration number.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I understand; not a registration, but cards. Cards, in fact, were provided for that location on Harbord Street.

Mr. Pope: There was no registration number issued on May 17 to Dr. Scott.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Cards were provided for that. That is right. He was practising in eastern Ontario.

Mr. Pope: He was already licensed—

Hon. Mr. Elston: So was Dr. Morgentaler—already licensed.

Mr. Pope: —for Hawkesbury.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. Pope: Under the Ontario health insurance plan, he already had his OHIP registration number arising out of Hawkesbury.

Hon. Mr. Elston: He was allowed to practise in Harbord Street. The cards were issued for Harbord Street for Dr. Scott.

Mr. Pope: Your staff knows—and do not try to say otherwise—that in meetings in April and May, I took the decision not to issue the OHIP registration number.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: But we are talking about two different things. You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Pope: I am not having it both ways.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You are. Mr. Norton talked several times about taking action under the Health Disciplines Act and doing all sorts of things that were never done.

Dr. Scott, even though he was an Ontario doctor and had an OHIP registration number, as we were just told, was allowed to practise out of Harbord Street, just the same as Dr. Morgentaler was.

Mr. Pope: No, it is not the same at all. Also, I think it is relevant that this committee know how much money was paid.

Hon. Mr. Elston: To Morgentaler?

Mr. Pope: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think we can do that under section 44.

Mr. Pope: I will get to that. It is relevant because—I am quoting from the Toronto Star of October 25, 1984—"The jury was also told that Morgentaler was to be paid \$2,165 each month as a consultant to the clinic."

Mr. LeNeveu: It could have been arrangements between two practitioners. That would not be an OHIP payment.

Mr. Pope: I do not know. That is why I would like to know what is going on. Last week, you told me you had not reviewed any of the circumstances, on any of the billings.

Mr. LeNeveu: The claims have been processed by OHIP. We said that last week.

Mr. Pope: Yes, but you said you had not reviewed the claims to see whether any had been rejected. Have any been rejected?

Mr. LeNeveu: We can say the claims have been processed. Obviously, they are reviewed in the process.

Mr. Wiseman: Can the committee subpoena? You mentioned that, according to the act, you can be subpoenaed. Does this committee have the authority to subpoena the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think it is through the courts.

Mr. Wiseman: Is it like a select committee? Do we have that authority? If we are not going to

get the answers one way, maybe we can get them another way.

Mr. Chairman: I think only the Legislature can do that.

Mr. Wiseman: Can we make a request to the Legislature that it happen?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Wiseman, the only exceptions that are provided for are pursuant to a subpoena by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Referring to section 44 of the Health Insurance Act, we can provide information to the court to an undertaking "(a) in connection with the administration of this act, the Health Disciplines Act, the Public Hospitals Act, the Private Hospitals Act, the Ambulance Act or the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act (Canada), the Medical Care Act (Canada) or the Criminal Code (Canada), or regulations made thereunder."

That is the first exception. The second is "(b) in proceedings under this act or the regulations."

The third is "(c) to the person who provided the service, his solicitor or personal representative, the executor, administrator or committee of his estate, his trustee in bankruptcy or other legal representative."

The fourth is "(d) to the person who received the services, his solicitor, personal representative or guardian, the committee or guardian of his estate or other legal representative of that person."

The fifth exception is "(e) pursuant to a subpoena by a court of competent jurisdiction."

Those are the exceptions to subsection 44(1) of the Health Insurance Act, which says, "Each member of the medical review committee, every practitioner review committee, the medical eligibility committee and the appeal board and each employee thereof, the general manager and each person engaged in the administration of this act and the regulations shall preserve secrecy with respect to all matters that come to his knowledge in the course of his employment or duties pertaining to insured persons and any insured services rendered and the payments made therefor, and shall not communicate any such matters to any other person except as otherwise provided in this act." I just gave you the exceptions.

Mr. Wiseman: It seems our hands are tied. If Mr. Pope cannot get some of his questions answered, we will never find out the truth about what is happening with regard to Morgentaler and his clients.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If you want to publish the incomes from the Ontario health insurance plan

of every doctor in the province, you might have support for it. You could introduce a private members' bill.

Mr. Pope: I assume you are saying you cannot tell me whether any claims were rejected.

Mr. LeNeveu: I would prefer to say the claims have been reviewed and processed.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can give you an undertaking that I will review this with our legal staff and get back to you on that very point.

Mr. Pope: Okay.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not willing to take a chance with a breach of confidentiality at this stage.

Mr. Pope: I understand that. As well, can you review the transcript today with respect to the discussion on the definition section, section 24?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will review that.

Mr. Pope: Can you let me know?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are you still going to be here after Christmas?

Mr. Pope: You never know.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will provide both critics for the parties with the answers after a review has been done.

11 a.m.

Mr. Pope: Before leaving the point, perhaps I can engage in a last area of discussion. In the Legislature last week, in response to my third question, and I was trying to keep the questions very factual—

Hon. Mr. Elston: I was trying to keep my answers very short.

Mr. Pope:—you said, "I can tell the honourable gentleman that the decision to issue the billing number was done as a matter of course through the administrative operations of the Ministry of Health."

In the interviews that were given outside the Legislature afterwards, you are reported as follows—and I am quoting from the Globe and Mail for Friday, December 13—I guess I should quote from the Star; no, it is not there—"The minister said it had been brought to his attention very shortly after assuming office at the end of June that this request was going forward. He said he sought legal advice on the matter from the Department of Justice.

"Mr. Elston added that he was made fully aware of all correspondence and legal opinions on the request when he reviewed the file in July and approved the decision to grant the OHIP number."

Is that your recollection of the events in June and July, that you reviewed the matter with senior staff?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is correct. The review at that time was initiated by a letter dated June 25, 1985, from Dr. Morgentaler. He was setting out—

Mr. Pope: What he would do.

Hon. Mr. Elston:—what he was going to do, which was proposing legal action—

Mr. Pope: Insured services.

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, he was suggesting at that point that he had initiated a request in February and at this stage he was about to initiate legal action to enforce the issuance of a billing number. At that stage, when we reviewed it, the opinion was that the billing number of the ministry should be issued. I reviewed that with legal people as well.

In addition to that, there was a letter of undertaking, which I did not see at the time but which the ministry staff advised me was available, which indicated insured services only would form his OHIP billing request.

Mr. Pope: The billing number was issued as a matter of course through the administrative operations, but the decision to do that was in your office?

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, the minister probably could have refused. On the basis of the review I went through, the decision being taken administratively and the threat of legal activity, I did not prevent that decision from going forward.

Mr. Pope: My second supplementary in the House last Thursday was as follows: "Can the minister indicate to the members of this House whether this was a cabinet decision and whether the cabinet approved of the decision or was informed of the decision?" We never quite got to an answer from you on that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: As to what goes on in cabinet, I think you and I know the material is not generally made available. I will not move from that. My answer is the administrators of this program decided, and I reviewed and made a decision. Therefore, for these purposes the minister certainly knew the billing number was being issued.

Mr. Pope: With respect to the material to cabinet, you cannot release that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No; if there was any.

Mr. Pope: I just thought I would try. You seemed to indicate earlier there was. I tried twice.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a related question. I gather the same day Mr. Pope raised this matter there was another question from Mr. Pope's caucus—I believe so anyway—regarding abortion committees in the various hospitals and the lack of access to therapeutic abortions in some areas of the province.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Sort of a different side of the issue, you mean.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I noticed that; but I am wondering whether you could supply the members of the committee with a list of hospitals that have committees and their communities so we would have an idea of how many communities lack access.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Can I provide that list by way of a letter to both you and Mr. Pope?

Mr. Pope: Could you add to that those hospitals that have committees and those hospitals that have committees that meet? There is a difference, as I found out in Stratford.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. I can provide the list of those areas that have committees, obviously; and I will indicate as much information in that letter as we can.

Mr. Pope: Bearing in mind the Health Insurance Act, have you initiated any action with respect to an expansion of services, and when are you going to inform the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine)?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have probably been considerably busier providing programs for the travel grant. That is an indication of expansion of health services in northern Ontario. I know we have differences of opinion about it, but in any event, from that standpoint we have decided to address some general health issues right across the province and come to more specific health issues later on. The minister and I are in conversation about what is required in northern Ontario.

Regarding the specific item of expansion of service, at this stage I have not communicated with the minister about some options expressed in an earlier leadership campaign that may be available. In the light of several other initiatives, we are now in the process of setting up some timetabling for dealing with and resolving questions of access so that we can make some policy decisions about whether certain efforts have to be made.

Mr. Pope: You are right in your reference to previous leadership campaigns, and I am right in saying it was one of the main planks of another campaign, released en route to Kapuskasing by

your leader as a priority issue to be addressed in northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It seems as though it might be a priority with the Health critic of the opposition and other parties as well.

Mr. Pope: I am just referring to the fact that your government seemed at the appropriate time to have made it an important priority to be addressed. From what I hear you saying, it is not going to be addressed other than for those requiring therapeutic abortions in some isolated areas of northern Ontario. Where there is no access, they will qualify for travel grants.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Medically necessary travel would certainly encompass medically necessary procedures.

Mr. Pope: Everything within the law.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In an issue that is difficult to deal with, the reality is that no matter on which side we fall, there is a Criminal Code, a process in place. It seems to me that we have to follow the current law which says that abortions are legal in Ontario under certain circumstances. I do not think that is universally available in the province. It should be.

If we do not like the law, if we think there should be more access, choice or, on the other side of the issue, less access, that is not up to us. We do not set that policy. The federal government sets it. We have been neglectful in Ontario in following the present law, let alone liberalizing the law.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are trying to come to grips with the access question. We have not left it unattended, but I have spent more time on certain other initiatives than on that one.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I thought I might mention something on extra billing. An hour and a half or two hours ago, Mr. McKessock wanted to ask something about extra billing. I want to get something clear from the minister. I know we will be getting a statement at some point, probably tomorrow, on the government's proposed legislation. Will there be provision for critics and research from the opposition parties to come in to be briefed ahead of the announcement?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes. I am not sure exactly what time, but it is certainly my intention to have some pre-announcement time available. As I mentioned to you yesterday, the lockup might well last from one o'clock to 4:30 p.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If the announcement is coming tomorrow, and it is either going to be

today or tomorrow because we will probably not be sitting on Friday, we would like to know as quickly as possible what the arrangements are so that we can make arrangements with our research department.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will probably have a chance to talk to both of you in the House this afternoon and we will set up a detailed time. It may be that you will disagree on the time for lockup.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McKessock, thank you for your patience.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. McKessock: That is fine.

Mr. Chairman: We were going to call you earlier but you were absent.

Mr. McKessock: Thank you. I have known the chairman to be very forthright until this very moment.

My questions pertain to the extra billing legislation and are in connection with an advertisement I just cut out of the paper in the last couple of days from the Association of Independent Physicians in Ontario. It seems to be a bit misleading to me. I just want to clarify a few points in the ad.

It starts, "Do you know what extra billing legislation could really mean?" Halfway down, it says: "Legislation must not endanger the principles of universality and accessibility. It must ensure that..." and then four items are listed. It is my understanding that the four items they list would be ensured. I just want to run them off to get your comment on it.

The first one says: "Patients are guaranteed OHIP reimbursement without penalty for medical care from any licensed physician of their choice." I take it that will be the case.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am aware of the advertisement and, likewise, I have difficulties with the way they expressed their factual material. Mr. Reid may wish to comment further, but I have some general concerns about that style of advertising.

In a general sense, I would like to indicate that they have expressed concerns about the existence of the situation as it is now under a regime where extra billing was provided. We have developed some difficulties, some pressures for funding, there is no doubt about that. If I could, I will just ask Mr. Reid to comment on each of the bullet points they put in their advertisement.

Mr. McKessock: Do you want me to repeat that one?

Mr. Reid: That must be the second advertisement.

Mr. McKessock: It was this week anyway.

Mr. Reid: The first advertisement contained a number of myths.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I think the Ontario Pharmacists' Association and this doctor group have the same consultants for their ads.

Mr. McKessock: It says, "The legislation must ensure," and then it lists these four points. To me, they are quite simple points that I figure it will ensure. I just wanted to run them off to you.

"Patients are guaranteed OHIP reimbursement without penalty for medical care from any licensed physician of their choice." Would that not be obvious?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is what universal access is all about.

Mr. McKessock: The second one says, "Patients are not denied hospital care with full OHIP coverage for hospital treatment by nonparticipating physicians of their choice."

Hon. Mr. Elston: Again, the same comment would apply.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Except if the Quebec model were used, that would be a problem. They would be correct on that second point if the Quebec model banning extra billing were followed.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The policy announcement will take place tomorrow. That is a departure; actually, I had not indicated that tomorrow was the date officially in public. You heard it first here.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Open government, 24 hours' notice.

Mr. McKessock: The third point: "Patients are not denied the right to participate in OHIP because they chose the services of a nonparticipating personal physician." It is my understanding that even though you chose a doctor who extra bills, you still have rights to OHIP but you may have to send it in yourself rather than the doctor.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is what normally happens. A nonparticipating physician will fill out a card on the procedures or whatever and then you actually do the forwarding of that card.

Mr. McKessock: But you are allowed to participate in OHIP.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Again, if the Quebec model were used and you chose a doctor who was not participating in OHIP, then that would be a valid point.

Mr. McKessock: I see. That is where they are getting this.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Basically, they are saying they do not wish to have the Quebec model. I think that is what that advertisement tells you.

Mr. McKessock: Under the Quebec model, if you chose a doctor who is opted out you have no right to the OHIP equivalent?

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right. The patient is opted out with the physician if he chooses to accept the physician's services.

Mr. McKessock: I see. In the Quebec plan, does the public pay for it or is it paid totally by the government?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There must be some premiums. I think there are only two or three provinces in Canada that have fully paid premiums.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Quebec has a payroll deduction plan.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Quebec does not have premiums.

Mr. McKessock: If you have premiums, then you should have a right to it; if you do not, then it is a little different.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is done a little differently there. As I was advised, a payroll tax is taken for payment of their insurance services. In Quebec, if a physician decides he or she wishes to opt out of the insurance program the patients who see them do not make insurance payments.

I mistook what you were talking about. I have not seen that ad. I saw an earlier one that set out what has been described as myths. They are saying their option is not to go with the Quebec model. That will be addressed when the legislation comes in.

Mr. McKessock: I will give you the third point. "Doctors who choose to practise without participating in OHIP must not be denied their democratic right to do so."

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is kind of hard to figure out where that came from. In any event, I will accept this as the reading of the advertisement.

I would like in this committee to address some concerns that were generated by the first advertisement. I know we have requested follow-up information from our people on the independent physicians in Ontario.

Mr. Pope: I have two questions that are follow-ups to this issue. Are there ongoing negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association on the fee schedule? Are there any plans for changes to the fee schedule unilaterally?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have no plans to unilaterally change the fee schedule. In terms of negotiations—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You got the answer down pat.

Mr. Dean: Sounds like W. G. Davis.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually, it was very interesting. I toured a new office space for the OMA last week. There were a series of cartoons on the wall and in one of them the former Premier of the province was depicted up to about here in quicksand in discussions about extra billing. It was a very wonderful tour of a gallery of pictures which included the current Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), one of the other participants in the leadership campaign and others.

Mr. Pope: I never made it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, you were not there.

Mr. Pope: That could be said of November 16 as well.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Nevertheless, it was an interesting collection of cartoons. In any event, I could have Mr. Reid address some of those concerns. There is, however, no unilateral change in the fee schedule.

Mr. Reid: There were four points in your ad? You got it down to four.

Hon. Mr. Elston: He repeated number four as three.

Mr. Reid: Oh, I see.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think you go all four, Mr. McKessock.

Mr. Reid: Well I—

Mr. Barlow: I do not know that anyone wants to hear Mr. Reid argue the points in the advertisement.

Mr. McKessock: I would like to have him give his views on that other advertisement.

Mr. Chairman: With the question asked by the minister, assisted by Mr. McKessock, we will have this.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I had some concern about the style of presentation of some material. In fairness, you have asked for some comments and I think this is part of the same process. I mean you did not, but—

Mr. Chairman: Okay; nobody asked, but go ahead.

11:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am prepared not to have Mr. Reid discuss it if you are really that upset with him wanting to provide this information.

Mr. Dean: We are upset with you wanting Mr. Reid to present it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I could go through it, but Mr. Reid is much more capable—

Mr. Reid: The first advertisement was run by the Association of Independent Physicians of Ontario. I have written to the president and asked Dr. Charbonneau to provide some factual evidence to support the six claims made. I will not go through the six claims but at least four of them are patently untrue. The other two are not in accordance with our opinion as they are very subjective. There is information being presented in that ad which is misleading. It does not serve the public well to provide information which is untrue.

Mr. McKessock: Could you call it false advertising?

Mr. Reid: I would like to pursue it on that basis if Dr. Charbonneau does not provide factual evidence to support the claims. I would make such a recommendation to the minister to pursue it through the newspaper council and charge false advertising. There is no question there are statements that are untrue.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That would be very interesting. At the same time as you are doing that review, you might want to do a review of the recent campaign of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association along the same lines.

Mr. Pope: Need a lawyer?

Mr. Reid: Do you know a good one?

Mr. Pope: I wanted to ask for two or three small points of information. There appeared to be an indication from you—it might have been to the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) or during the late show—that you were reviewing the \$75 issue. I would like some clarification on that from the point of view of someone who is faced with it in the constituency office. I am getting requests, by the way.

Hon. Mr. Elston: With respect to that \$75 idea, when we put the grant program in place we had to start someplace to determine how the grant would be constructed. Our starting point for qualification for travel purposes was 300 kilometres.

When we were trying to formulate a response for a grant on the travel, we decided the value of 300-kilometre travel would be assessed at \$75. That would give us a yardstick for determining what number would be provided to cover the cost of travel from various areas to other various areas. Each of us recognizes that when you put together a grant program you have to come up

with numbers. That was a mechanism that provided us with the numbers.

In some instances the grant will probably cover the entire cost. We are watching what will take place with respect to negotiations with some commercial air carriers, for instance. We are taking a look at whether people choose, in some instances, to travel by automobile. We are really looking at this initial phase.

I am quite serious when I ask people to provide me with details of instances where the matter has not worked well so that we can refine it. I am interested in making sure we can get those people travelling fairly quickly. The \$75 figure will not act as a deduction, if you know what I mean, or a "detergent," as somebody said.

Mr. Chairman: I wonder who said that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Actually it kind of surprised me at the time, but in any event, what I am most interested in is that we get those people travelling to these centres. Mr. Hennessy mentioned the case. You mentioned it for him in the late show with respect to those people who were not able to come down because of what they felt was a \$75 deterrent fee.

Had the policy not been implemented on December 1, they would have been required to pay the entire amount, so we have made some advances. I am looking at how our program works in its initial phases of introduction. I have already had inquiries, for instance, about places which I know—probably Mr. Pope will be more familiar with their locations—are perhaps slightly south of the French River, for instance, but which can be considered remote.

I am willing to take a look at how we are able to implement this for those people who fall within our current guidelines. I will be looking at the formula for determining grants, as to how that works out.

The short answer is yes, but I really want to see how we are providing the service in the initial phases. I guess I can tell you up front I am not about to change the program before we see how it is performing. From that standpoint, I am certain everybody will be able to provide me with some information or feedback about how it is affecting constituents.

Mr. Pope: I would make one prediction for you: the three programs taken together, the emergency transfer system by dedicated aircraft, the interhospital or interinstitutional transfer program and this program, when all three are analysed by physicians, you are going to have a heavier load on your interinstitutional transfer program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is a heavy load there now.

Mr. Pope: It is going to get heavier because they are going to analyse the three. The other is up front and requires some administrative work in hospital admission offices and a bit of co-ordination between the referral physician and the receiving physician and specialist. It is going to be logical for those physicians who are concerned about the financial status of their patients to go the interinstitutional transfer route.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are looking at that. I know a couple of things have happened relatively recently. Some of the volunteer agencies have requested meetings so that we can work out manners of dealing with payments they have traditionally made for their client groups to come to southern Ontario, to other centres, for instance. I think some arrangements can be made there.

I spoke to another group this morning about developing liaison to work out mechanisms whereby the group could stand in place of the patient for the purposes of setting up the administrative end of it. I think there are some things we may be able to do that will alleviate some of your concerns.

I am still quite optimistic that we are doing a far better job with the introduction of this program than we could have done before. We will be able to work this system out so it works effectively. I will accept your observations. Probably both of us hope you are wrong.

Mr. Pope: You made a funding announcement last week and my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) had brought to your attention Mount Carmel House. He was wondering if that was included in the statement.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was not one of the ones that was included. We worked on the basis of a limited number of programs. Do you have the list, Mr. Corder, from that area of the province? That program was listed as number two and we picked up the number one recommendations in a number of areas.

Mr. Pope: Which was number one?

11:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have to take a look at my book. Here are the new programs. We have alcohol services, Red Lake. I will see where we are with respect to the Cornwall area first. I will try to pick that one out. The Cornwall and Area Social Detox, Friendship Welcome Centre was

rated as number one. Mount Carmel House was the second-rated program there.

Mr. Pope: The member mentioned they are on the verge of closing down because of lack of funding.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Just for the purposes of going through, I indicated that the first-ranked program in the Cornwall area was the Cornwall and Area Social Detox, Friendship Welcome Centre rather than Mount Carmel. So your program was not picked up in the funding announcement of last Thursday.

Mr. Villeneuve: I hope the minister is aware of the very strong possibility that Mount Carmel may have to shut down because of financial reasons in the new year. If that occurs, we shall undo a great deal of good that has been done. We shall prevent an institution from continuing when it was really getting to the root of the problem, the treatment of young people who have gone down the wrong road; they will not have the opportunity to recover in their communities.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I understand the degree of feelings you have about this project. All I can tell you is that at this point we have picked up the first-ranked programs that were recommended to us.

We do have a good bit of information on the budget of Mount Carmel, the one that you have advocated. I talked with David last week, and again now, and if there is flexibility for us to consider it, we will do that. David is well aware of the centre's problems.

I can undertake with you now to review that very quickly and get back to you early in January, probably when we come back. I understand we will be back very early in the new year.

Mr. Pope: Speak for yourself.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I understand the bulk of the members will be back early in the new year. I will undertake to sit down with the member and the board to go over any questions, and if we have a possibility I will provide you with that undertaking.

Mr. Villeneuve: The situation is very serious. Could the ministry provide me with some information as to how much the Ontario health insurance plan is paying to American institutions that are doing the very same thing as Mount Carmel?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure I can tell you whether they are doing exactly the same thing, but I can tell you that \$4 million is applied to people receiving services for detoxification in the US.

Mr. Villeneuve: Within and outside the province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, in the United States.

Mr. Villeneuve: Remember, Mount Carmel has a 75 per cent to 80 per cent success rate. I would like to see what their success rates are.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I appreciate the grave feelings you have. I think that expansion of our program will help to some extent, but I cannot promise the people of the province that we will ever eliminate people going to participate in programs in the US. That will not happen for various reasons. We are working as quickly as we can to provide a setting where as many people as possible can receive treatment in Ontario. I am providing you with an undertaking to sit down with you and with the centre to see what might be done.

Mr. Villeneuve: For the record, their request is \$190,000, but they would settle for less if they had to.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is \$191,121 to be exact.

Mr. Villeneuve: Thank you.

Mr. Pope: You should never admit that last part.

Mr. Villeneuve: We are desperate.

Mr. Pope: Never admit how desperate you are.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is obvious; it is under health care.

Which centres are being funded in northeastern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Can I give you the list and you can pick them out? There are a couple of facilities in Timmins that you might be interested in. May I run down them rather than isolating them?

We have Alcohol Services in Red Lake; the Timiskaming Alcohol Assessment Program in Kirkland Lake; the Addiction Counselling for the Family Unit in Elliot Lake; South Cochrane Case Management Services in Timmins; the Robin's Hill Recovery Home for Women in Sudbury; REACH Elderly Addicts-Community Health Project, Serenity House of Quinte, in Belleville; Cornwall and Area Social Detox, which I mentioned earlier; Portuguese Community Anti-Alcoholism Project, Toronto Western and Doctor's Hospitals in Toronto; Addiction Outreach of Simcoe County Inc. in Barrie; Haldimand-Norfolk Addiction Assessment Referral Centre in Simcoe; Alcontrol Homes for Women in Waterloo; Outpatient Services for the Treatment of Alcohol and Drug Abuse at Homewood

Sanitarium in Guelph; Kent County Alcohol Outpatient, Day Treatment and Aftercare Program in Kent county; and the Re-education Centre for Alcoholics in Timmins.

Those are new addiction programs we are funding. In addition, there are several places which will be receiving coverage for residential programs. One is the Jean Tweed Treatment Centre, where we made the announcement. I was there with Ruth Grier, and I can share with the members that the feeling of those people who developed it was incredible. They worked very hard to put that program together. It is a centre that has about a 75 per cent success rate. It was quite a day out there. It is the type of thing that should be shared not only with all the members of the Legislature but also, in many ways, with people who are often haunting the areas of Management Board, Treasury and other places.

Mr. Pope: They would never do it.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It was certainly a moving experience for me to see the degree of commitment those people have in terms of reaching people. I think that was expressed by Mr. Villeneuve today with respect to his area.

We also have the Renascent Treatment Centre in Toronto, the Maison Renaissance in Hearst, the Men's Social Service Club in Sudbury, St. Joseph's Centre Alcohol Treatment Program in North Bay and the Westover Treatment Centre in Thamesville.

I might have missed one as I went through the list. There may be others with which arrangements might be made.

11:40 a.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a couple of things I want to raise. I have one question about statistics; it relates to my involvement with this environmental problem on the St. Clair River.

In talking to Dr. W. Everett, who is the Kent county medical officer of health, I learned there was a study from the Department of National Health and Welfare that alarmed a lot of people in the Wallaceburg region about certain kinds of cancer deaths.

After we talked to Dr. Everett, we phoned a number of other people because I gather one of the major problems is collection of data. For one thing, birth defects, which are a good indication of potential or existing environmental problems, are not reportable and therefore statistics on birth defects are very sketchy and not necessarily accurate.

I also gather that cancer statistics are kept when someone dies but not on the incidence of cancer. That also creates great problems in trying

to identify potential environmental problems early rather than late.

I gather there was some program of data collection in which Dr. Greg Sherman was involved and that they are trying to re-establish something in January. He was so frustrated with the current system of data collection that it was not done this year.

With all the environmental problems that are being experienced, exposed and talked about, especially on the Great Lakes, is any consideration being given to a much more detailed method of collecting data on illnesses, such things as birth defects and incidence of cancer, that would be an indicator of an environmental problem, not necessarily of mortality because we already do that, but the actual contracting of cancer and the types of cancer?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Perhaps I could start off. I have spoken with Dr. Everett as well. When I was talking to him, he indicated that Dr. Blake, who is with us, was setting up a meeting. There will be a meeting of the Ministry of Health and, I presume, somebody from the federal authorities with Dr. Everett so they can discuss the two reports you are speaking about. Therefore, we have moved to deal with those.

However, I think Dr. Blake has information with respect to birth anomalies and other problems you have raised.

Dr. Blake: There is a system for collecting information on birth defects. It is pretty good actually, but the difficulty is in catching birth defects after the first seven days if they only become apparent later on in a child's life. Those are probably not collectable, but it is certainly very good—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is it mandatory that they be reported? My understanding is that it is not mandatory.

Dr. Blake: Honestly, I have forgotten whether it is mandatory, but the recording is excellent; it comes through the hospitals, through the neonatal.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When we talked to Dr. Sherman, he told us birth defects would not have to be reported.

Dr. Blake: Not all the provinces take part in this system Dr. Sherman is talking about. He may be complaining about the lack of input from the other provinces. Ontario has been a participant in this.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am sorry, but I do not know Dr. Sherman.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: This is from our research memorandum; our research people have done it. He is with the federal program.

Dr. Blake: The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation is collecting data on the incidence on cancer. It is not all available yet; mortality is. The other system is being worked up but it is not complete yet.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There is anticipation that the system of collecting data on cancer is going to be improved. Are the statistics that are quoted on mortality given as to where the person dies or where the person comes from?

Dr. Blake: Residence.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is on residence. I know from the people we have talked to that there is great concern that a large number of improvements could take place in the method of collecting data. You might want to look at whether birth defects have to be reported or whether it is done just on a co-operative basis, in which case statistics would not be nearly as reliable. That is what Dr. Sherman indicated to us. He seemed to indicate that we have a representative, Dr. R. Kazen, but that there was not all the co-operation from Ontario that was necessary and that there was some frustration with Ontario.

Dr. Blake: Can I tell you about the frustration with the feds? It has to do with computer systems.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Okay; I just wanted to make sure that was being looked at. I was reviewing cancer statistics for my own community, and there seemed to be a great variance even in talking to the cancer society. They seemed to indicate the statistics were largely irrelevant and possibly misleading.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Do you mean with respect to the studies?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In the studies. They also produce a book, I believe annually, on cancer deaths. This again does not really tell a whole lot. The types of cancer and the incidence of cancer are more important than the actual deaths; some of these cancers can take 15 or 20 years to develop or even to result in death. Those of us who live on the Great Lakes would like to have some data that would indicate problems are developing more quickly so preventive action could be taken more quickly.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I guess we are in the middle of an age where we are discovering a tremendous amount more about disease, and cancer is one in

which information is being generated and seems to be proliferating rather than growing.

Statistically, our systems are developing to handle the new data. Take a look at some of the things Mr. Reid is doing with institutions in trying to come to grips with the services that are being delivered throughout the province or, as we generate new staff, with respect to diseases we now know a lot more about.

I think there are genuine efforts, and I know Barbara is doing it as well as Randy and others. They are genuinely trying to come to grips with how we can provide a statistical base so we can analyse what we have and where we are going, not only with respect to disease but also in a lot of areas in health. That is cutting right across, co-operatively, in our liaisons with the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Medical Association.

In addition, we have groups such as the cancer research people and others who are getting their data systems together. I think we are working on that, and I think we have some pretty good mechanisms which are expanding to deal with new sources of information and types of information.

With respect to clashes of computer personalities, we will certainly try to work those out. A meeting was held earlier, I think last week in Ottawa, where we were trying to develop an across-Canada standard way of collecting statistics for diseases, which is probably a good step to take.

I think we will be seeing more co-operative action rather than less, obviously, with respect to a lot of this.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am going to write you a detailed letter on our conversations with other people, and one of the things I will mention—and I can get a response at that point—is whether birth defects reporting is mandatory. If it is not, I think it is something that should be examined to make sure we do have it. That is a much quicker way of indicating any particular problem in a community, whether it be environmental or otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will be pleased to respond, and in fairness again with respect to an answer like that, I will make it available to the critic of the other party as well.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have two short questions. I gather the report on electroconvulsive therapy—

Hon. Mr. Elston: You started out with two, and now you have two more.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Yes. I just noticed I have two more. The ECT report, I gather from talking to—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are these questions spawning, or is this—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, they are actually on my list. There are others we could go into, but you are going to respond to a large number in writing.

Regarding the ECT report and Charlie Clark's committee, I saw him last week and he indicated his final report will be in to you by the end of the year.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Yes.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: He was just doing some final writing, I gather.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have had some concerns of my own with respect to delays that have occurred and what should have been done earlier in the year, but there were medical difficulties for some of the people who were involved in preparing the report. In addition, the committee itself was rather large, which caused some logistical problems. I have to say I called Mr. Clark on occasion to ask what was going on and he indicated—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: He indicated there was some pressure on him to speed things up.

11:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have made an inquiry in any event, and I can tell you I am expecting to receive the report very soon. As soon as I get it, rather than waiting too long because of the nature of the expectations, probably even before I have had a chance to read the whole thing, I will make it available to the public so people can start reading it and analyse it on their own.

As soon as I get it, and as soon as we have it printed in sufficient quantities at least to start to release it, I will put it out to the public for review. I can give you that undertaking. It will not be held back so I can take a look at it and analyse it; it will be made available.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In the same connection, is there any possibility that the ministry will look at a total review of the Mental Health Act? It has been about seven years since the major amendments were introduced. Some of them were only recently proclaimed but many of them were proclaimed back then.

There seems to be concern on all sides that—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Is this the basis for another committee?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No; believe me, I do not want to be on any more committees than I have to be. I am not suggesting it should necessarily be a legislative committee, but there seems to be general agreement that it might be time to review

the Mental Health Act to see whether the changes that were instituted in 1978 are working in the way that those of us on the committee then and the ministry expected they would work.

The five-day rule and the narrow definition some practitioners are taking of the meaning of "a danger to himself or others" is a major concern, in that people are being shoved aside because of the narrow definition, which I do not believe was intended in the original legislation.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can say this much. I have not been looking at a major review of the Mental Health Act on my own as a priority I have started up and been deeply involved in. I do know there is ongoing analysis inside the ministry. I know they are participating, for instance, in the development of a model Mental Health Act for the Uniform Law Conference of Canada group.

I have been occupied more with the practical provision of some programming in mental health. I have been putting my efforts into items such as the detoxification programs and getting the Hucker report in front of us so we can start asking ourselves a little bit about particular facilities that I had some concerns about, in a general sense, when I came into the ministry.

When I found out about the Hucker report, I was quite interested in trying to address that. I do not know a whole lot about the amendments, and I will tell you that right up front. I can ask Mr. Corder to tell you a little more about that. I know he is aware of it in detail. My inclination is and has been to provide some practical services.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The problem is that the services that do exist are not being accessed by a large number of people because of the narrow definitions being used by some practitioners. If we cannot get them in for help we cannot help them. Instead, there is the use of rest homes, wandering the streets or hostels, until somebody gets really sick or someone is hurt.

I am not suggesting that we abandon the five-day rule and go back to the 60 days or whatever the assessment period was before. That would be a major step backwards. I am suggesting a changing of the wording, an educating of some of the practitioners or a changing of regulations so there is a clear definition of what "a danger to himself or others" means in the broader sense, rather than in the narrow sense.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Can I let Mr. Corder discuss that? He has been working quite hard preparing material for me on other matters, but he has also been working on that.

Mr. Corder: I was not aware that was a problem. If you take a look at the number of certificates that have been issued since that act was put into place, there are considerably more than there were before that act was proclaimed. I am not aware there are large groups that cannot access the facilities because of those definitions, but I will look into that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Most members of the Legislature have had the experience of a family calling us, especially with chronic schizophrenia, and it is a real problem.

Mr. Corder: The problem relates to the treatment that condition receives rather than to the Mental Health Act per se.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I had a case in my office the other day that has been ongoing for the last two years. Finally, at the local level, the police said to the hospital, "You are taking this guy because he destroyed the home, locked his wife up for several hours and threatened his mother." It was only then that we were able to convince the hospital to take him.

The response of St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital was, "We cannot take anybody because there is a strike going on." I cannot quite understand that rationale, because I do not know of a strike. I know of some negotiations, but I do not know of a strike.

With the chronically ill, a lot of these institutions find every reason not to take a person, rather than allowing the person to access the system and get back on medication. It seems that when these people go off their medication and are in the community they relapse into a difficult state.

If you talk to members of the Legislature you will find it a common call we get into our offices from families. Maybe we should feed these cases into the minister's office so that you are aware there is a major problem out there.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In terms of difficulties in serving the population with schizophrenia, I am quite aware of everything you mentioned. For instance, I became aware of a couple of situations in my own riding. Maybe it is a definitional problem; I do not know. In many ways, in our part of the province it is trying to provide service, some outreach for those people that I had seen as a problem. Perhaps you and I are looking at the same difficulty from different directions. It may be in that sense.

In any event, Mr. Corder and I are willing to take a run through that if you think it is the definition that is excluding those people. I have

no hesitation about entering into discussions on how we can improve our mental health services.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I could give you a number of other examples but I will not.

Finally, when can we expect an announcement on the extension of the assistive devices program beyond age 21?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I met this morning with my advisory committee. It had not met since early June. Early in the new year it is developing responses for a couple of issues that have been raised with me and that I have raised with Mr. King, the chairman of the advisory committee.

It is also undertaking some consultation with respect to some of the groups, to make sure we work together to provide any expansion of the assistive devices program. Early in the new year, before April, I expect I will have the report.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Why have the members not met since June?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There has been a degree of uncertainty. Some members have retired; Dr. Bain who was chairman and several others. Several new people have come in and in the interim there has probably been some uncertainty as to direction.

The announcement that we were moving on the age 21 matter and looking at other possibilities has provided them with the basis for starting their meetings again and making sure they have addressed a couple of concerns. Speaking early on with Mr. King, we talked about some items that we thought should be explored a little more clearly and that was why the meeting was held this morning, to start the process and get an early response to me so that we can make sure our efforts are co-ordinated and will meet the needs of the people.

12 noon

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You are committed, though, to extending the program.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is right. I am working with the committee on that basis.

The other point that was raised by the committee was the question of whether there was concern about the manner in which the children's program is operating. I had not examined it, but if members here have concerns the committee expressed a willingness to ensure any problems that may have been felt by members or anyone else could be brought back so it could make a review of the program and make sure those were addressed.

Quite honestly, I had not heard there had been very many problems, if any. It has been rather

successful, and there is an anticipation of a change in the makeup of the committee on the basis that its early composition included several paediatricians and now there is a feeling we should change it to address questions which take into account that our program will be designed to expand towards adults. We are anticipating further reports from the committee and I am hoping that can be done as soon as we are able.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The only concern that has been brought to my attention is the slowness with which we are moving to cover adults.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot disagree with your proposal that it move more quickly. There are a lot of areas in which we would all like to move faster.

With respect to developing programs, it is not physically possible. I want to ensure that when we put a program in we do it as well as we can. From that standpoint, there will always be delays. People's expectations usually run ahead of implementation. I am well aware of the concerns expressed by the public, but if a program is worth doing it is worth doing as well as we can.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is what Keith Norton used to say. He promised it by the end of fiscal 1984-85 and we did not get it. We thought we were going to get it in July 1985 and it did not come.

Hon. Mr. Elston: In fairness, we have taken a step to ensure we did not lose people from the coverage that is currently there. I met with the committee this very day and it knows it has a mandate to take a look at questions to ensure we can co-ordinate our efforts.

Together with everything else that is expected of us and expected of me as a minister in providing services, I have to do them within my own physical limitations, and I have considerable. Some think there are more than others but, in that sense, there are only so many hours we can put in to put programs together.

That does not indicate a lack of will or commitment to address the needs. Everybody would like to have had things done yesterday; I am aware of the need to move quickly and that is why we are working within the very limited time frame with which the assistive devices program advisory committee can come back to me so we can work out a program.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Can we look forward to a pre-election announcement?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I suppose all the announcements we have made so far are pre-election, are they not?

Mr. Villeneuve: This has to do with a very rare disease known as MPS IV, Morquio syndrome. A young lady in my riding, in the town of Iroquois, has been struck with it and I understand she requires an operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. It is under review right now by your staff. Suffice it to say it is being looked after.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The usual situation is well known with respect to hospital admission, so Mr. LeNeveu or I can get back to you when the review has been done.

Mr. Villeneuve: The problem is the child is only eight or nine years old and it would be quite a strain financially for one of the parents to accompany her to Baltimore and stay there for the duration of the convalescence. I do not know whether anything can be done within your ministry on that one.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have a situation where a friend of our family has cancer of the liver and the recommendation is to go to a facility in the US where there is probably a more available service. We can provide coverage in the hospitals under our Ontario health insurance plan, but generally speaking we cannot provide accommodation and travel. I shall let Ron review that and get back to me so I can talk to you about it.

Mr. Pope: The role of the district health councils in holding forums on extra billing, if it has not been controversial, has elicited comment in things like the Ontario Medical Review.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Resignations too.

Mr. Pope: Yes. What is your policy with respect to the use of health councils on policy matters of this nature?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I did not expect nor ask the councils to develop policy. I asked them merely to facilitate the holding of the meetings and the forums. I did not ask them to put together a health council position on it. I did not expect it. I did not require it. I did not ask the members to participate other than to act, in a sense, as facilitators.

My feeling was they could handle that role because they are looked upon as being a force that has community knowledge but that was not identified as being on one side or the other of the

issue. They could facilitate the holding of these forums, and basically that is what happened. None of the councils was asked to submit material on that to me. They were asked to do a report of what was said on an objective basis.

Obviously the councils can be used to do planning with respect to programs and the way services are delivered. The council people performed very well in acting as facilitators. I think that side of it did work well but not without some controversy, as David has mentioned, and, with respect, it did elicit some comment. Since I did not ask them to develop the policy, I felt that was not violating their mandate, and I thought to have a forum otherwise convened would be looked upon as not really being evenhanded in a fashion I felt the health councils could be evenhanded.

Mr. Chairman: We have various votes to pass in the next minute. On vote 3601, everything seems standard except two items that are often challenged: the minister's salary and the parliamentary assistant's salary.

Votes 3601 to 3606, inclusive, agreed to.

Supplementary estimates on vote 3602 and votes 3604 to 3606, inclusive, agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is Christmas, Chris. We have won the day.

Mr. Ward: My children thank you.

Mr. Chairman: We have finished in exactly 20 hours. Thank you, Minister, and your staff and your parliamentary assistant. Enjoy your Christmas.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Chairman, thanks to you and the members of the committee because you have been flexible in allowing me to be away and to start at different times, and I appreciate that. The best of the season to the members of the committee.

Mr. Chairman: I am not sure when the committee sits again. There is some thought of starting on January 6 but I understand it is Ukrainian Christmas on January 7 so they may not do that. We will start with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, whenever.

The committee adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

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 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
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From the Ministry of Health:

Blake, Dr. B., Director, Public Health Branch
 Corder, D. W., Assistant Deputy Minister, Mental Health
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 LeNeveu, R., Assistant Deputy Minister, Administration, Finance and Health Insurance
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government

Estimates, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Wednesday, January 8, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, January 8, 1986

The committee met at 10:14 a.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE

The Vice-Chairman: Now that we have a quorum and all interested parties are represented, we should get under way. You all know the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) and do not need any introduction to her. If she does not know you, she is going to get to know you better as the next eight hours unfold.

Before we start with the minister's statement on the estimates, there are two things we should deal with in a procedural way.

The minister has just advised me, as some of us had heard before, that the cabinet is going to meet in northern Ontario next Wednesday and that she will not be available unless there is an absolutely apocalyptic reason for her missing that cabinet meeting. We need to decide whether we are in agreement with postponing further consideration of the estimates by one week.

The clerk has advised me that some committees are going to meet anyway because the respective ministers are going to miss the cabinet meeting to carry on with their estimates. It can go either way, but the minister does have a commitment to be at the cabinet meeting in the north and will not be here.

Would you like to comment on that?

Hon. Ms. Munro: It is also tied in with a lot of other meetings we are scheduling up in the north from the point of view of breaking down some of the barriers to isolation on the cultural and multicultural sides. We have a host of meetings contingent on the Wednesday date. Therefore, I would appreciate your indulgence; if that is not forthcoming we can cancel all the meetings. There is no problem; whatever you wish.

Mrs. Marland: The idea is that we would resume the following Wednesday; is that it?

The Vice-Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Hennessy: If you do not go somebody else will go; so there is no difference. There are only four ministers going. I know you will be there Tuesday and Wednesday; and I will probably be there anyway, so I have no objection whatsoever.

The Vice-Chairman: Do you mean you are not going to be here next Wednesday either?

Mr. Hennessy: I will be there to see what they are doing. They cannot give that much away, we gave it all away.

Mr. Leluk: You are keeping an eye on things.

Mr. Hennessy: They are not going to win my seat, I can assure you.

The Vice-Chairman: I want to know the feeling of the members. Mr. Grande, do you have an opinion?

Mr. Grande: It is normal procedure that if the minister cannot attend the estimates on one particular day the estimates are done as soon as possible afterwards. I do not see any problem with that. It has happened that way in the past and it is the proper way to proceed. I am sure the minister also would be understanding whenever members of this committee, for some reason or other, might have to be elsewhere and cannot carry on as well.

Mr. Wiseman: How many hours do we have?

The Vice-Chairman: We have eight altogether.

Mr. Wiseman: Two weeks will finish this?

The Vice-Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Leluk: On another point, is it the intention of the auxiliary minister for your ministry to be present this morning? I do not see Mr. Ruprecht here.

Hon. Ms. Munro: No.

Mr. Leluk: I have some questions I would like to address specifically to him as a minister for your ministry.

Hon. Ms. Munro: We can bring him in on the particular project for which he is responsible; that is, the public dialogue. However, I have taken responsibility for the estimates and for the ministry itself. We can ask him to come whenever you feel it—

Mr. Leluk: I have some questions for you, and I have others addressed specifically to him.

Hon. Ms. Munro: He can be made available.

Mr. Leluk: I would like to have him here.

The Vice-Chairman: It sounds as though that is flexible.

Regarding the main question we are dealing with now, I sense there is an agreement that we will not consider the estimates of the ministry next week. If there is any other business ready to come before this committee, perhaps we could deal with that and try to straighten that out.

Mrs. Marland: It is a reciprocal agreement.

The Vice-Chairman: Then it is agreed we will consider the estimates of the ministry on January 22, following the minister's return.

The other thing that has been mentioned by the minister is that, with the concurrence of the committee, some of the representatives of agencies under the ministry's supervision be here as a group so they do not need to be standing around wondering when we are going to get to their part. The first group of those people would be available this afternoon, if wanted, to begin the afternoon by discussing issues involving those agencies. Which ones would be available today, Minister?

Hon. Ms. Munro: The Art Gallery of Ontario, the Ontario Arts Council, the McMichael Canadian Collection, CJRT-FM, the Ontario Science Centre and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The Vice-Chairman: What is the opinion of the committee?

Mrs. Marland: I got the first three, but what are the last two?

The Vice-Chairman: Would you mind reading those over again, please?

Hon. Ms. Munro: The Art Gallery of Ontario, the McMichael Canadian Collection, the Ontario Arts Council, CJRT-FM, the Ontario Science Centre and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Mrs. Marland: Thank you.

The Vice-Chairman: Is that agreed? Are you willing to deal with those people more or less as a group rather than having them come at random during the estimates whenever we might get around to their vote?

10:20 a.m.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Chairman, since I am a first-time member in my first experience with this whole process, perhaps you could outline something for me. When you speak of "the groups attending," what is the format of their attendance?

The Vice-Chairman: The usual procedure is that they are here at the times required and they are considered one by one as we have questions for them.

For instance, if the Art Gallery of Ontario is the first one, its representatives will come to the table and any questions that members have regarding the operation of AGO can be put to them at that time; instead of saying: "You are vote 3, item 10. We will deal with that two weeks from today at 11 a.m.," or something like that.

The idea was to get a little more efficiency in the use of their time.

Mr. Wiseman: I wonder how long the minister's opening statement will be. I see my colleague has a fairly lengthy one, and probably the New Democratic Party has a fairly long opening statement as well. They usually like to have some of their questions answered in their opening statements.

It is almost 10:30. An hour and a half is not very long; I would hate to lose the—

The Vice-Chairman: The continuity of that.

Mr. Wiseman: —the continuity of my critic's questions and the NDP questions. Perhaps something the minister might say in her opening statement would lead to more questions. If we start to hear all of the five agencies that may be coming in this afternoon, sometimes ministers' statements can take 45 minutes or so.

The Vice-Chairman: Let us consider a couple of things. First, I do not think that just because they were scheduled all five would have to be dealt with this afternoon if we had other things first. Second, how long is the minister's statement?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Twenty minutes, approximately.

Mr. Leluk: Can we arrange to have Mr. Ruprecht here? Some of the questions that will follow my opening statement as first speaker for our party will be directed specifically to him, and I would like to have him present this morning.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The questions would be directed to him this morning? He is in cabinet now, and I understand that this afternoon he is involved in the public dialogues. We could send a message to him.

Mr. Leluk: Maybe closer to that time.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes; for this morning's session, before cabinet ends.

Mr. Leluk: Okay.

Mrs. Marland: If we are going to bring in outside groups, perhaps now is the time to answer a question I have, because it may make a difference in our whole scheduling.

I am the critic for Citizenship and Culture, and the only briefing report I have is one dated April

1, 1985. Are any of the contents we are dealing with today and in the next two meetings different in any way from any of these figures?

The Vice-Chairman: I would have to put that to the minister.

Hon. Ms. Munro: There are minimal changes, if any. I am using the same book you are using, and if any changes or any in-house expenditures have taken place over and above estimates, you can address questions in that regard. We are basically using that statement.

Mrs. Marland: The difficulty I have is that I do not have any information other than this. I think it would be equitable that, if there were other figures, I should have the benefit of them in advance.

The Vice-Chairman: Would it be possible for the minister to have her staff provide any changes there are, if they are minimal, before noon?

Mrs. Marland: It depends on what the description of "minimal" is. If they are really minimal, then I would accept that. However, if they are not, I would ask for a postponement of the meeting entirely until I have had time to consider the changes. If some of those changes pertain to the groups that are about to be scheduled to come in this afternoon, the whole process breaks down. That is why I am asking the question at this point.

Hon. Ms. Munro: My understanding is that they are minimal. We are dealing with the estimates and those are the estimate figures.

Mr. Leluk: Can the minister explain why we would not have received copies of whatever minimal changes there are in advance of the meeting this morning?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Let me turn to my officials. Maybe they can articulate just how many minimal changes there are.

The Vice-Chairman: Perhaps you can introduce your three people, just so we know.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes. I have three people with me today directly from the ministry at the assistant deputy minister level. My deputy will be here at the next meeting. Randy Norberg is assistant deputy minister on the cultural side; Lyn Statten, who is sitting back there, is assistant deputy minister of citizenship; and David Wood, who will be addressing you on the changes, is executive director of finance and administration. My executive assistant, David Michener, is to his left.

Mr. Wood: As you are aware, the meeting today is to approve the printed estimates that

appear in the document the honourable member has. There have been adjustments both in and out, as there always are during the course of the year, depending on whether new programs are approved as in-year additions or whether constraints are applied across government.

These changes have taken place since the current estimates and since the document you have. The current estimates show a total ministry expenditure of \$224.4 million. The projected actuals at this time, based upon approved in-year additions and the application of government-wide constraints, are \$216.4 million, showing a net decrease of \$8 million.

We can provide by lunchtime a copy of the ins and outs. That is not difficult to do, and it would give you an indication of what has transpired since the printed estimates were prepared.

Mrs. Marland: I have to ask the minister whether she considers \$8 million minimal, whether it is a decrease or an increase. Is \$8 million minimal?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, it is. The \$8 million is actually holdbacks on some of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development funds and is connected directly with programs that had started up later than scheduled. I am thinking of the community facilities improvement program as being one of them. That does not mean those moneys or the dedication of moneys will not carry through into the next year. Some of the delay was occasioned by elections, government changes and those sorts of decisions.

You have the budget statement, which lists the budget for 1985-86 as a target of \$214 million. It has now been increased to \$216 million; so I consider that \$8 million as completely justifiable.

Mrs. Marland: The question was not whether it is justifiable. The question is whether it is minimal in the overall picture of the budget.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, I think it is minimal.

The Vice-Chairman: It is roughly a four per cent change, is it not?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes.

The Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Marland, I guess what you are looking for is whether there is a substantive change in policy or in the programs resulting from the change in the estimates.

Hon. Ms. Munro: There are none.

Mrs. Marland: When I hear the amount is \$8 million, I know if I were after \$1 million for a project I would not consider \$8 million minimal.

I am wondering, if there are BILD projects that have been held back, what they were. Obviously,

I would have liked to have had this information ahead of time in order that I could consider it and make comment on it. I do not know at what point it is going to be coming into the presentation. I just do not know how to attack it, not knowing about it ahead of time.

Hon. Ms. Munro: We have no problem about giving a breakdown of where we see the \$8 million being cut from various programs. I want to assure the member that the changes are occasioned by holdbacks on BILD and have no negative impact on our policy or on our commitments to certain programs.

If it would make you feel more comfortable, as I am sure it would, we could have a statement on where we have anticipated cutting back by \$8 million.

Mrs. Marland: And what the holdbacks are specifically?

Mr. Wood: Yes.

Mrs. Marland: Approximately when would that be?

Mr. Wood: We could have that for this afternoon's session.

10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Marland: Are any of these holdback areas with any of the groups you might be scheduling for this afternoon?

Hon. Ms. Munro: No.

Mrs. Marland: That is fine.

The Vice-Chairman: We were on the issue of the agencies that have been advised we might be able to deal with them this afternoon. To the extent that we have time to deal with them, are you in agreement that we hear them as the first item following the minister's statement, the critics' responses and the questions that flow directly from that, without getting into the whole meat of the estimates? We do not want to interrupt that flow, as Mr. Wiseman suggested. Then we could go next to dealing with as many of the agency groups as we can handle this afternoon. Is that agreed?

Interjection: Agreed.

The Vice-Chairman: I do not hear anything from over there. Do you guys agree? You have to criticize your minister too.

Hon. Ms. Munro: They do to keep me in shape.

The Vice-Chairman: So that we do not delay these things, is it possible the information you are speaking about could be available before we adjourn for lunch in case anybody wants to look over it before two o'clock?

Hon. Ms. Munro: We will do our best.

The Vice-Chairman: Okay.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Mr. Wood is in conversation right now but—

The Vice-Chairman: We will assume we will get that before lunch or immediately afterwards, but preferably before. Is there any other item of procedure anybody wants to raise before we get going?

Mrs. Marland: Yes. Can I anticipate the schedule for the afternoon? Do you normally sit from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.?

The Vice-Chairman: We are scheduled for from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. We got started about 10:14 a.m. We would try to sit to do our four hours today. We would sit until 12:14 p.m., start at 2 p.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. I guess we had better clean up this morning first. Does everybody agree to sit until 12:14 p.m.?

Mrs. Marland: Then it would be two until four this afternoon?

The Vice-Chairman: Two until four.

Mrs. Marland: Thank you.

The Vice-Chairman: The minister has the floor for her opening statement.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I am very happy to appear before this committee to present the estimates of one of the finest ministries in this government, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. I must say I am looking forward to your comments and positive critiques and feedbacks, so we might become, to the citizens of Ontario, the kind of ministry they expect, need and desire.

I come from Hamilton, as many of you know, a community that is very much a microcosm of the cultural and multicultural life of Ontario. The home of 542,000 people, 200,000 of whom are of non-British or non-French origin, Hamilton offers a wide range of cultural opportunities. We have a terrific art gallery with one of the largest collections of Canadian art in the country, a first-class philharmonic orchestra, a talented opera company, great theatre and organized multicultural celebrations. As the slogan says, "Our product is steel but our strength is people."

The extraordinary diversity of Ontario's people is a vital strength of the whole province. Like a symphony orchestra that creates beautiful music by harmonizing the efforts of different musicians, Ontarians have built a vibrant society based on the combined talents of people from around the globe.

The ministry helps various groups preserve and share their distinctive cultures and traditions.

At the same time, we work to foster the ideal of full and equal citizenship, which binds the province together as a multicultural society that is a model for the world.

We Ontarians express our diverse heritage and our shared vision of community through the work of creative artists. Culture is the pathway by which new ideas and new experiences enter our consciousness. It is the route to social and economic progress. The ministry therefore has a mandate to nurture and sustain culture and the arts in all their forms right across this province. Indeed, culture and multicultural are two currents in the same stream and my ministry is determined to foster a dynamic two-way flow between them.

We run a number of programs designed to encourage interaction between our ministry's clients at the grassroots level. Multicultural communities must be linked with the larger society and not thrust into ghettos by rigid government structures or funding criteria. However, if we are to leave a vital multicultural legacy to future generations, we must remain on guard to protect our national identity and our distinctive vision of community life. Our cultural sovereignty surely represents our most precious treasure as a nation.

The government of Ontario is deeply apprehensive about the emerging federal stance towards free trade talks with the United States. As the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has cautioned, policymakers must remember that trade issues involve not only Canada's economic survival but our political, social and cultural survival as well. Ontario insists that Canadian culture not be put on the table in any free trade discussions. Our cultural sovereignty is simply not negotiable.

In Ontario, all three parties share the commitment to foster culture and citizenship and the natural interplay between them. We all agree that creative artists and ethnic individuals should not be exploited for partisan political purposes. I want to recognize publicly the previous ministers and deputy ministers in this portfolio for the solid progress achieved in the past. I also want to say that I am impressed with the competence and dedication of the ministry staff. Clearly, we have an excellent foundation of programs and personnel on which to build.

The great examples of classical culture that surround us—the architecture, sculptures, paintings and symphonies—have come to us through the generosity of patrons. If our children, and our children's children, are to enjoy works of today's generation of artists and artisans, then government must share in the role of patron. However,

in awarding public funds on the basis of artistic merit, government must adhere to the arm's length principle. This system is working well in divorcing artistic decisions from the political process.

This essential principle underlies the ministry's dealings with our cultural agencies. The government does not decide which paintings to hang at the Art Gallery of Ontario, which shows to broadcast on TVOntario or which artists are to receive Ontario Arts Council grants. Our role is to deliver the necessary resources, establish general objectives and ensure accountability for the use of public funds. We are not involved in individual artistic or programming decisions. That is as it should be.

While rightly proud of our brilliant cultural tapestry woven from many different threads, we Ontarians realize that multiculturalism is still evolving. As Ontario's lead minister for multiculturalism, I am working to promote the advancement of qualified candidates from diverse ethnocultural backgrounds in the major institutions in our society.

My government will not rest until we achieve equality across the board. We are building a truly open society, a society based on merit, where all individuals—women and men, new Canadians and old—have the full opportunity to reach their potential. With my background as an adult student and my career in the continuing education field, I am especially enthusiastic about the positive educational role played by my ministry. Through a host of programs and client groups, we foster a variety of informal learning opportunities which greatly enrich the quality of life and equip people to join fully in modern society.

I believe culture, by definition, must be participative and accessible to all individuals. However, access is as much psychological as physical; it depends on awareness. People should understand that while culture is the Toronto Symphony and the National Ballet touring Europe, it is also the Native Earth Performing Arts Group on stage in Toronto and Boris Brott and the Hamilton Philharmonic playing in the Stelco parking lot.

10:40 a.m.

Access depends on the realization that our museums, art galleries and theatres are not the preserve of an élite, but a true reflection of the multicultural realities of this province. A key ministry objective is to communicate to all citizens, especially those in minority groups, the array of cultural opportunities open to all of us.

I have made greater access to services in the French language a priority in all program areas of this ministry. We are continuing an extensive review of our French-language services policy and have taken specific initiatives which I will recount under the general program highlights.

Let me emphasize that the ministry recognizes the obstacles which geography can pose to equal access to cultural resources. We are actively developing new strategies to overcome distance barriers, especially in northern Ontario. Our recent initiatives with regard to Science North in Sudbury reflect this commitment.

The federal-provincial conference of culture ministers in Halifax in September emphasized the significant economic impact of culture and the arts. The issue, as I see it, is jobs for artists, technicians and support personnel and jobs in other industries as dollars spent on culture ripple throughout the economy.

In Ontario, the cultural sector employs more workers than any manufacturing industry group except transportation equipment and generates revenues of \$3.5 billion a year. These impacts are certain to intensify as our service and information economy expands.

While recognizing and maximizing the economic benefits, however, we must never lose sight of the fact that culture and the arts are worth while in themselves. The social and psychological value alone fully justifies public support for creative endeavours.

In fulfilling its mandate, the ministry works together with more than 7,000 community-based organizations active in citizenship and culture across this province. These organizations are the basis of creative excellence and the very foundation of our multicultural society.

Needless to say, the ministry is committed to doing all it can to help our partners become strong, self-reliant and responsive. We want to strengthen their capabilities and resources to serve their communities. I believe an ongoing dialogue with the public is an absolute must if we are to develop policies that truly reflect the wishes of all Ontarians. I refer not only to consultations among leaders but also to a dialogue that involves everyone.

Since becoming minister, I have travelled this great province from Thunder Bay to St. Catharines and from Sudbury to Belleville. The Minister without Portfolio, the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), is assisting me with our multicultural interests in this networking exercise to strengthen the ties between the ministry

and the community. We will continue to listen carefully to people's concerns.

I believe a new spirit of openness and co-operation is guiding the deliberations of the Legislature. This is a spirit I have tried to foster by establishing a practice of informing all members in advance of grants being awarded in their ridings. We genuinely believe the stewardship of public funds and the formulation of public policy are responsibilities of all sides of the House.

I regard this estimates process as an important forum for dialogue with the committee. As a basis for discussion, my remaining remarks will focus on three broad themes. First, the ministry is opening doors to wider participation in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the province. Second, we are working together with communities around the province to advance citizenship and culture. Third, we are building for tomorrow by reinforcing the economic impact of culture, providing informal learning opportunities and fostering appreciation of our proud heritage.

Our first theme is opening doors. Ontario needs the contributions of all citizens to continue building a productive, progressive and innovative society. The ministry's mandate is to open the doors to full participation in all facets of provincial life. We do this by welcoming newcomers. In 1984, 41,527 immigrants made their homes in the province.

The ministry's Ontario Welcome House facilities help newcomers to adapt to their new surroundings by providing settlement services in 38 languages. I am delighted that the ministry is expanding the Ontario Welcome House network to Hamilton. The new storefront location will be operational in January. Our clients there will receive the same support and services that emanate from the Toronto and Mississauga facilities.

For many newcomers, the language barrier bars the door to employment and participation in Canadian life. To open the door, the ministry is supporting more than 300 community-based, English-as-a-second-language programs across this province. Women make up 70 per cent of the enrolment in these classes.

I have encouraged the ministry to explore the possibilities of distance education as a means of broadening access to ESL instruction and teacher training. The challenge of providing education in remote areas is one I understand from experience as director of extension for a university in northern Alberta in the 1970s. Last February, the

ministry held a successful pilot training workshop using a teleconference hookup to reach teachers in seven northern Ontario locations. We plan to develop the concept further this year.

The ministry is broadening the concept of English in the work place to include not only language classes but also all aspects of communication with a multicultural work force. This year we are introducing a \$500,000 incentive grant program to encourage community organizations to undertake EWP programs and to market the concept aggressively to employers.

A major ministry objective is to build strong multicultural communities as a basis for participation in the larger society. We are working to organize a Koreans in Ontario conference to be held in Toronto this February. This event will enhance community participation among Ontario's Korean population, which has grown by an estimated 50 per cent in the past four years.

Another way in which we open doors is through our public libraries. The modern public library is not only a repository of books but also a community cultural centre that promotes the exchange of information and the sharing of traditions. Libraries provide access to a wide range of knowledge that is essential to participation in contemporary society.

To raise the profile of libraries at the community level, the ministry proclaimed the first Ontario Public Library Week, held from September 23 to 29, 1985. This initiative sparked an enthusiastic response, with more than 200 municipalities celebrating this event. To kick off the festivities, the ministry sponsored a major Libraries 2000 conference at the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre. International experts assembled to provide the library community with a thought-provoking future look at the information needs of tomorrow.

The French-language collection development program helps overcome the financial problems of building collections in two languages. In 1986, \$400,000 has been budgeted to assist library boards to purchase books and materials in French. We will achieve further progress in French-language services through the efforts of the provincial advisory committee and the provincial co-ordinator in this field.

To keep Ontario's library service at a state-of-the-art level, the government is funding the development of a province-wide, fully automated library telecommunications system. The aim is to help libraries share resources and communicate through on-line data banks and electronic mail.

In the first step, I was pleased during library week to inaugurate officially a pilot project involving 26 libraries in the Ontario Library Service escarpment area. A report on the results is expected by the end of March. If the outlook is favourable, we plan to extend the system across the province on a phased basis throughout 1986 and 1987.

Another way to open doors is through our community information centres. It is not only newcomers who need help in obtaining access to the host of community and government services our society offers. For the general public, community information centres provide personal information counselling and referral services without charge and on a confidential basis.

The ministry is actively encouraging centres to consider the benefits of automation. Our staff worked with the Association of Community Information Centres in Ontario to develop a plan for linking automated centres in a province-wide information network. We are now funding a feasibility study on the proposals.

Our second theme is working together. In fulfilling our mandate, we in the ministry work as partners with community-based volunteer organizations active in the citizenship and cultural fields. We also lend support to commercial cultural enterprises, which are so crucial to the creation and preservation of our national identity.

10:50 a.m.

We must take care always to respect community needs and not to distort them to fit some abstract image of what cultural life should be like. The ministry's job is to support, supplement and reinforce community initiatives, efforts and priorities.

One of the ways in which we work together is through the Ontario Arts Council. The ministry is committed to ensuring continued excellence and broad access to the cultural life of the province. As indicated, public support for creative endeavours, provided in accordance with the arm's-length principle, is essential to the achievement of these objectives.

For some time, the Ontario Arts Council has been the primary arts-grant agency of this province. Under this government, it will remain so. However, the Ontario Arts Council must be funded generously if it is to fulfil its mandate of promoting the study, enjoyment and production of works of art. When I took on this portfolio, it soon became apparent that a number of regional arts organizations and newly emerging forms were suffering from underfunding.

Very early in our term, we acted to raise the arts council's budget base by \$2 million annually to meet the needs of these smaller arts groups. This decision reflects the commitment of the new government, and the personal conviction of the Premier, that culture is a vital part of provincial life that requires and deserves strong public backing.

We work together through our cultural enterprises. Under my leadership the ministry is placing new emphasis on partnership with the commercial cultural sector, a key source of jobs for artists and related workers. Direct employment in cultural enterprises in this province is more than 100,000 and is expanding faster than the rest of the economy.

In this information age, film and video represent an increasingly vital artistic medium and commercial opportunity. I am delighted that the Ontario Film Development Corp. will be open for business in February under chairman and chief executive officer Wayne Clarkson, former director of the Festival of Festivals.

This corporation has a three-year budget of \$20 million, a very substantial allocation in a climate of fiscal constraint. This commitment reflects the government's faith in the economic and cultural future of our dynamic Ontario-based film producers.

Our province is the centre of the Canadian film and video industry, but the fact is that our leadership has been eroding. Ontario's share of Canadian production dropped from 60 per cent in 1979 to 35 per cent in 1982. Other jurisdictions have moved ahead with aggressive government support while we have stood still. The new film development corporation will reverse this previous decline and deliver the support our film industry needs to prevail in a highly competitive marketplace.

The film development corporation brings under one roof the film and video office from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, and the film-related activities of my ministry. Building on the existing program base, it will introduce new initiatives to strengthen financing, marketing and training in our film production companies.

Our efforts are not confined to a single industry. The ministry is actively examining initiatives to further the development of other cultural sectors, including sound recording, book publishing, periodical publishing and commercial theatre.

For example, we are following through with the long-standing initiative of the ministry and

the Ontario Heritage Foundation to rejuvenate the unique Elgin/Winter Garden Heritage Theatre complex. The foundation is now developing design drawings for the future restoration and renovation of the entire structure, including the building of a modern backstage addition. We are also working on a financing package that we hope will include federal assistance as well as provincial dollars, private investment and fund-raising.

Another way in which we work together is through our multicultural service program grants. Volunteer organizations play an indispensable role in fostering both culture and citizenship in this province. On the citizenship side, community-based groups across the province provide settlement services, promote positive intergroup relations and help immigrants build bridges to the larger community.

The ministry's multicultural service program grants provide these service agencies with ongoing operating funds to meet the increasingly complex demands of our multicultural society. This year the budget for the program has been raised by \$1 million to an annual total of \$2.3 million. The new money will allow us to enrich funding levels for some organizations and to fund additional groups.

Another way in which we work together is through our commitment to volunteer awards. Volunteers are the unsung heroes of our cultural and community life. To recognize the indispensable volunteer role, I was delighted last month to announce the creation of outstanding achievement awards and the return of the successful volunteer service awards.

There will be 15 outstanding achievement awards granted to individuals, nonprofit organizations and business firms which have made an exceptional contribution to citizenship or culture. We will present the awards, which will be specially created by an Ontario craftsman, at a province-wide ceremony in Toronto on February 14.

Organizations working within the ministry's mandate may nominate individuals for the second annual volunteer service awards at regional ceremonies next spring, for recognition of years of service. Last year some 2,500 volunteers received the trillium-shaped award pins and we look forward to an enthusiastic response again this year.

We work together through leadership development. The success of volunteer organizations is directly tied to the calibre of their leadership. This year 100 to 120 representatives of commu-

nity organizations will sharpen their leadership skills at four Working with Volunteer Boards workshops, one of several volunteer development programs run by this ministry.

The French version of the Working with Volunteer Boards handbook, which was pilot-tested last year, will be released in February 1986. We plan eight community briefing sessions to market the French edition of this useful manual. We will also hold a facilitator workshop for representatives of 24 provincial francophone organizations, and then develop a basic leadership training course to meet their needs.

We work together through improving community facilities. To serve the public effectively, community organizations must keep their facilities up to date. The ministry's community facilities improvement program is a tangible sign of our commitment to working together with our volunteer partners across the province. While new construction will be funded where needed, the major emphasis is on getting the most from existing buildings. We are focusing on projects which enhance the quality of service or fill a gap in cultural or multicultural programming in the community.

An example is the grant to the Jamaican-Canadian Association in Toronto to establish a permanent home—I was pleased this August to attend the official opening of the renovated building—which will help the group continue its two decades of service to newcomers from the Caribbean.

We work together through linking citizenship and culture. At the community level, a natural connection exists between citizenship and cultural activities. The ministry has supported a number of projects to capitalize on and reinforce this link to enrich the quality of life. With a ministry grant, the First Nations Artisans Association and the McMichael Canadian Collection collaborated on *Artsperience '85*, a project which brought 30 young native artists to a learning symposium at the gallery this summer. To convey the multicultural diversity of the province's past, the Ontario Heritage Foundation has mounted a travelling exhibition, *Folk Treasures of Historic Ontario*, which is touring eight centres from Sudbury to Stratford.

We work together with our native community. The ministry works with native communities to help them gain control over their own destiny. Our financial support assists native people in developing their economy, improving job skills, strengthening social bonds and preserving traditional cultures.

Recent grants include: assistance to Wanepuh-nud Corp., which provides life skills and job-readiness instruction, on-the-job training and work placements for disadvantaged women in the Toronto area; and support to a Wisdom and Ways Shared gathering at the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, which brought the younger and older generations together to discuss traditional ways and their modern application.

We have tailored the community facilities improvement program to address native priorities by introducing a special \$3-million version known as the Ontario native economic support program. There is 75 per cent funding, up to specified ceilings, available to stimulate a variety of economic investments by incorporated native groups, communities or band councils.

11 a.m.

The third theme of the ministry is building for tomorrow. Ontario, like other advanced societies, is undergoing a major social and economic adjustment. Our economic base is shifting from manufacturing and resources to services and information. The Minister of Citizenship and Culture has a mandate to cushion and channel the impact of this "future shock" by promoting economic growth while preserving the fabric of our society. We build for tomorrow through impacting on the economy.

Culture is a sunrise industry which can usher in a new dawn of productive employment and economic growth. I intend to see that culture gets the attention it deserves as an economic development priority. A major step in this direction has been our negotiations with the federal government to include major cultural projects within the scope of the Canada-Ontario economic and regional development agreement. The cultural subagreement is now awaiting formal approval by the federal government.

Ontario and the Chinese province of Jiangsu are entering into a formal twinning accord which is expected to open the door to trade and investment. Cultural exchange will contribute to the success of this agreement by building the trust and goodwill upon which commercial dealings depend. My ministry will direct the province's financial support for all exchanges of artists and cultural organizations with the Chinese.

We build for tomorrow through open sector education. As an educator, I am excited to lead a ministry which puts into practice such concepts as open sector education, continuing education and lifetime learning. The goal is to help people prepare for their individual futures.

The ministry has natural links with the formal educational system which I believe should be reinforced. We will be working closely with the ministries of Education, Colleges and Universities and Skills Development to co-ordinate our activities to ensure access to these personal development opportunities. As a first step, we are compiling an inventory of the numerous educational programs of the ministry's cultural agencies.

TVOntario, the provincial broadcaster, is a key element in the educational continuum of the province. TVO's average audience per week now exceeds 2.2 million viewers, both adults and children. To make TVOntario's high-quality educational programming more accessible to Franco-Ontarians, we are introducing a new French-language TVOntario network to be operational by the fall of 1986. The federal and provincial governments have each agreed to contribute \$15 million over five years towards programming, capital and operating costs.

Radio listeners have access to a variety of learning opportunities through CJRT-FM, the province's educational, noncommercial radio station. The Ontario Science Centre is world-famous for its hands-on approach to the presentation of scientific knowledge. Next stop for the Science Circus, by the way, will be Malaysia with a two-month tour to begin early in 1986.

The Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the McMichael Canadian Collection, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council, the Royal Botanical Gardens and the Archives of Ontario all offer active and innovative educational programs which expand the horizons of thousands of participants every year.

An excellent example of the educational role of ministry clients occurs in the field of literacy. Since 1983, the Owen Sound Public Library and its corps of volunteers have taught adults how to read through a one-to-one tutoring program. The ministry is providing funds for additional pilot projects, especially in francophone and native communities.

We build for tomorrow by contributing to years such as International Youth Year. The province's future is taking shape now, in the hearts and minds of our young people. Through a variety of new and ongoing initiatives, the ministry joined in the celebration of International Youth Year in 1985.

We were delighted to support Kaggik '85, a festival of Canadian youth choirs from around the country which culminated in a joint perfor-

mance at Roy Thomson Hall last month. "Kaggik" is an Inuit word referring to a special igloo built for festivals.

The Young Leaders Tomorrow program is expected to assist some 1,500 young Ontarians over the next three years to develop life skills and leadership abilities through experience in the work of volunteer boards. The program will be offered in 36 locations across the province, beginning in two centres, commencing on a pilot basis in February 1986.

All too often, young people have been a forgotten generation of public library users. In September, library administrators, educators and young people gathered at a ministry-sponsored symposium, Youthtalk '85, to discuss programming and marketing strategies to appeal to youth. The innovative librarianship award, introduced to encourage the sharing of new approaches to library programming, this year highlighted the provision of services to young people.

We build for tomorrow through our Computers and Children program. If children are to have a fair chance in the economy of tomorrow, all Ontario children must have access and exposure to the computer. "High tech" must become "how tech."

Under the first stage of the Computers and Children program, 56 computer centres have now been established around the province. At each centre an average of 300-500 children a week are learning to use the computer as a problem-solving tool. Adults and small businesses are also utilizing the equipment for practical applications. Cabinet's recent decision to extend program funding up to \$8 million means that 274 more centres throughout Ontario will be opened by March.

We build for tomorrow by conserving our heritage. Heritage appreciation is the foundation on which tomorrow will be built. Our confidence in the future mirrors our pride in the past.

In my early weeks in office, I was delighted to announce a ministry commitment to assist with the restoration of Ontario's oldest surviving stone bridge, the Lyndhurst Bridge. I also had no hesitancy in responding to a municipal request to protect 100,000 years of geological history which was threatened by development at the East Toronto Brickworks.

In my opinion, the time has come for a full-scale public review of the Ontario Heritage Act, which has been in force for a decade. We will produce a discussion paper and hold a series of public meetings to find the best ways to protect

heritage property and to encourage broad participation in heritage conservation.

A high priority this year is support for urban archaeological excavations, which have captured the public's imagination around this province. We have established a special category under the community facilities improvement program to develop archaeological learning centres, which raise heritage awareness by interpreting the remains of the past.

To date, projects in Toronto, Barrie, Thunder Bay, Kingston and London have been awarded a total of more than \$800,000. At the Molson and Little excavation in Barrie, for example, secondary school students and volunteers excavated an early Huron site this summer.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation has undertaken an important new role with approval of the Niagara Escarpment plan this June. Under the plan, the foundation is charged with responsibility for preserving the natural and cultural heritage features of this region.

With ministry staff support, a special committee of the foundation's board is co-ordinating the Niagara Escarpment land acquisition and stewardship program. This initiative will be funded by annual allocations over the next 10 years for park land acquisition and heritage protection. The foundation has been allocated a grant of \$2.5 million for escarpment activities in fiscal 1985-86.

In conclusion, it is an honour to lead this forward-looking ministry which has such a profound impact on the quality of life in Ontario. I am committed to furthering the ministry's development to provide compassionate, sensitive service to the people of this province.

Our first priority is public dialogue. We will continue to consult far and wide to devise effective programs which are truly responsive to the needs of Ontario's people.

The ministry recognizes that the prime responsibility for culture and multiculturalism in this province lies at the community level, which is closest to the people. Our role is supportive: to help people help themselves.

The ministry works to open the doors to full access to the abundant opportunities Ontario offers its citizens. We build for tomorrow by promoting economic development, lifetime learning and respect for the past. We encourage the creative energy of individuals and the commitment of groups to produce a vibrant and thriving multicultural society.

11:10 a.m.

I know all members of this committee will share these objectives. Thank you very much for your time.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Leluk, the critic for culture—

Mr. Leluk: The critic for citizenship and multiculturalism.

The Vice-Chairman: Thank you. I will get that credit right.

Mr. Leluk: I am delighted to have this opportunity to participate in these estimates as our party's critic for citizenship and multiculturalism and to speak on a subject of great importance to all honourable members in this assembly, and to all Ontarians. That subject is multiculturalism.

I approach the subject with some trepidation. Whenever I am asked to present my views about multiculturalism, I am inclined to paraphrase Winston Churchill, "Never has so much been said by so many about so important a subject and with such scant understanding of the topic itself."

Multiculturalism is without a doubt one of the great Bermuda Triangles of political policy. No sooner do you start talking about it than you disappear into a mysterious zone where there are no definitions, no firm figures and even rather confusing objectives.

Everybody thinks they know what you mean when you mention multiculturalism, but few want to try to explain it. No matter whether one describes multiculturalism as a diversity of cultures, languages or groups, or a diversity of groups living together in harmony, or as the equality of groups or individuals, multiculturalism describes Canada's social mosaic, and I believe that Canadians tend to view multiculturalism in a positive way.

As a first-generation Canadian whose parents emigrated to western Canada from the Ukraine in 1911, along with many eastern Europeans, I gained an early insight and appreciation for multiculturalism.

These people chose Canada as their adopted country for want of a better life for themselves, their children and their children's children. Canada for them was the land of opportunity where they could achieve this goal. Together with hundreds of thousands who have emigrated to Canada, they have worked hard to build this country and have made an enormous contribution to the economic and cultural life of Canada and our great province.

There is no better model of multiculturalism than Metropolitan Toronto, as was reported recently by one of this city's major newspapers in

a seven-part series on Metro's minorities. Our more than 100 minority groups are today the majority, whereas before the Second World War eight out of 10 Metro residents were white or British descendants.

That is a dramatic transformation for a city to undergo. Today, Metro Toronto is a dynamic multicultural metropolis, a world-class working example of many peoples living together in relative harmony. Our mix of cultures, religions and languages has made us an enormously vital and human city. Still, it is necessary to reflect on the past and on the ongoing struggles of the cultural minorities for acceptance and for equal opportunity to participate fully in the economic, political, social and other aspects of Metro and Ontario life.

A policy of accommodating the cultural aspirations of diverse groups has not caused our society to fall apart. On the contrary, we can all appreciate our roots, share each other's culture and take pride in being Canadians.

As a spokesperson for the Progressive Conservative Party, which made multicultural policy a reality in Ontario, I would like to take this opportunity to recoup the key multicultural initiatives which were implemented by our party, particularly since 1971 during the Honourable William Davis's years as Premier.

I believe I speak with some knowledge of these events, having served as the member for the ridings of Humber and York West in the Legislature since 1971.

I had the honour and privilege—although, regrettably, for only a short period of seven weeks—of serving as Minister of Citizenship and Culture before the change of government in June of last year. I can say that updating our party's multicultural policy to meet the changing times was indeed a priority which I was very much interested in and was working towards.

After I have outlined the key multicultural initiatives implemented by our party, I will ask the Minister of Citizenship and Culture what her Liberal government's mandate and objectives are for a multicultural policy and what directions and priorities will be taken by her ministry.

In Ontario, our party has recognized this province's multicultural mosaic with various policies since at least the end of the Second World War. In 1971, former Premier William Davis made multicultural policy in Ontario a formal fact of life. It stressed cultural retention, creative encounters and interchange, overcoming barriers and the opportunity for immigrants to learn either English or French.

This was redefined in 1977 with a focus on three basic elements: first, equality, equal treatment for all Ontario residents; second, access and participation, ensuring that no one because of cultural differences was denied access to government services; and third, cultural retention and sharing, the right of individuals and groups to retain and develop their cultural heritage and language.

In June 1972, our party organized the Heritage Ontario Congress which brought together 1,500 persons from all ethnic, cultural and geographical communities to discuss the past, present and future of the people and cultures in Ontario. Recommendations were made regarding citizenship, culture, education, language, human rights, media, government, native peoples and newcomers.

Many of these recommendations formed the basis for future policies and programs: the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship, heritage language, ethnocultural study programs and expansion of the English-as-a-second-language program.

In 1973, the Ontario Welcome House was opened in Toronto to assist in providing a broad range of counselling, orientation and settlement services to newcomers. During that same year, the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship was established to provide a consultative process by which members of the public advised the government of Ontario on matters relating to multiculturalism within a context of full, equal, responsible citizenship for all residents of the province.

The Ontario Advisory Council on the Status of Women was also created that year to advise the government on all matters pertaining to women. The council's purpose was to monitor and evaluate existing legislation, submit briefs and hold consultations with women's groups across the province.

In 1974, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was established, which addressed the needs of the ethnocultural communities in our province. I had the honour and privilege of serving as the first parliamentary assistant to the former minister, the Honourable Robert Welch.

In the same year, the affirmative action program was initiated for women crown employees by which every ministry must have a plan to improve the status of women employees. Today, every province has some form of affirmative action program.

In 1976, the Multicultural History Society was established with a \$3-million Wintario grant to

collect material on the ethnocultural groups of the province for deposit in the Ontario archives. The society also produced publications and hosted conferences. It had become a major archival research and resource centre.

During 1977, the heritage languages program commenced in our elementary schools. In 1977-78, 30 languages were taught in the province to 42,713 students. The program grew quickly and in 1983-84, 51 languages were taught to 88,570 students in 73 school boards.

In 1978, the Family Law Reform Act came into force. For the first time, Ontario's written law reflected the concept that marriage is an equal partnership between husband and wife in which both are presumed in law to share equally the family assets, including the matrimonial home.

In 1979, the former Ministry of Culture and Recreation was named the lead ministry for multiculturalism in the government of Ontario, with responsibility to look at how all ministries and government agencies were serving our multicultural population.

During that same year, the Ontario Human Rights Commission established a specific race relations division. The government also established the cabinet committee on race relations to give focus and definition to race relations and to help co-ordinate the activities of various ministries and agencies.

11:20 a.m.

In 1981, the support of former Premier Davis was crucial to successfully including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Canada's new Constitution, recognizing the multicultural nature of Canadian society and guaranteeing fundamental freedoms of religion, thought, press and peaceful assembly, democratic and legal rights, and rights pertaining to mobility, minority language education and nondiscrimination.

In 1982, the Ontario Human Rights Code was strengthened to provide freedom from discrimination with respect to services, goods, facilities, accommodation, contracts, employment, membership in unions and occupational and professional associations, as well as freedom from harassment because of sex both in accommodation and in the work place. Discrimination was prohibited on the grounds of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, age, marital status, family status or handicap.

In 1983, a high priority was given to women's concerns by appointing the Deputy Premier as Minister responsible for Women's Issues. Under

this minister, the present Ontario's women's directorate was formed to co-ordinate government policies and activities affecting women.

The creation of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture in 1982 from the previous Ministry of Culture and Recreation established in 1974, clearly underlined the relevance of multiculturalism and its importance within the context of government policy.

The mandate for the ministry is to promote citizenship that is full and equal in sharing the life of the province—economic, social and political—and to support and strengthen cultural expression wherever it appears in the province.

As I mentioned earlier, I would like to ask the Minister of Citizenship and Culture whether the Liberal Party of Ontario has a multicultural policy and if so, will she table it immediately, and if not, why not.

As the minister may know, it is one thing to have a formal policy of multiculturalism; it is quite another to have one that is flexible enough to meet the changes that are continually taking place in our multicultural society. The changes are occurring faster than you can say hello in four languages. Therefore, I hope that when the Liberal Party announces its multicultural policy, it will continue provisions for our province's rapidly changing demographics.

As the minister may be aware, since 1945 the province has received some 2.7 million newcomers from diverse ethnic and cultural groups. Changing economic and social conditions and technological innovations in the work place are creating new barriers to participation, particularly for a number of long-term immigrants who lack the basic language skills necessary to gain access to training opportunities.

As well, the changing composition of immigration to Canada requires the development of new approaches and services to ensure the smooth adaptation and integration of newcomers to Ontario society. The Progressive Conservative government recognized that the following were ministry priorities for addressing this need:

1. Improving government-wide sensitivity and awareness in the delivery of programs and services to the special needs and requirements of newcomers and immigrants.

2. Increasing the knowledge and awareness among Ontario's ethnocultural communities of current programs and opportunities, and the means of gaining access to them.

3. Responding to specific integration and adaptation difficulties by exploring, developing and supporting family education programs and

special programs for immigrant women, youth and seniors.

4. Enhancing citizenship education and information activities and materials, focusing in particular on increasing knowledge and understanding of the democratic process and traditions in Ontario.

5. Broadening the range and scope of language training, emphasizing its use as a means to an end to ensure that those who lacked the necessary skills were able to participate in training programs and social life in the province.

6. Improving the ministry's direct service delivery capability to serve Ontario's ethnocultural communities.

7. Strengthening ministry involvement in employment and training initiatives of other ministries and levels of government to ensure that program criteria accommodate special circumstances of natives and recent and long-term immigrants.

As the minister may be aware, Ontario is the homeland for more of Canada's native peoples than any other province. Ontario's native peoples require special assistance in developing and implementing economic development initiatives and in gaining access to training and skills development opportunities.

The Progressive Conservative government recognized the following were ministry priorities for addressing this situation: (1) enhancing economic development opportunities for Ontario's native communities; and (2) increasing human resource advice to the native community and providing enhanced training opportunities for native people.

As the minister may be aware, better understanding and tolerance of the cultures and traditions of the many groups that make up Ontario society are required to remove barriers to full participation for all residents and to eliminate racism as a factor in Ontario society.

The Progressive Conservative government recognized that the following were ministry priorities for addressing this need:

1. Enhancing the cross-cultural communications activities and promoting wider awareness and understanding of the culture, traditions and heritage of Ontario's diverse population.

2. Increasing awareness of the nature and intent of Ontario's multiculturalism policies at all levels of government and among all public and private organizations and institutions in the province.

3. Encouraging great numbers of linkages between Ontario's ethnic-cultural population and

other elements of Ontario society and stimulating wider cultural sharing.

As the minister may be aware, to continue serving as vital forces in Ontario life and to enhance their capacity for program and service excellence, citizenship and cultural organizations need to increase community involvement and participation in their activities.

The Progressive Conservative government recognized that the following were ministry priorities for addressing this situation:

1. Assisting citizenship organizations in improving their outreach activities and tapping into nontraditional sources of membership and support.

2. Encouraging greater networking and co-operation among citizenship and cultural groups and organizations to improve sharing of human and physical resources.

3. Helping community groups to ensure their facilities are appropriate to their needs, focusing on the rehabilitation and upgrading of the current capital stock.

4. Encouraging good management practices that will provide organizational stability and ensure citizenship groups maintain their autonomy and viability as responsive, community-based organizations.

5. Fostering wider appreciation of the educational aspects of citizenship activities and their natural links with the formal educational system.

As the minister may be aware, volunteerism is a key aspect of community life in the province, reflecting the commitment of individuals to the community and society. Continued growth and development of the voluntary sector is essential to maintaining a rich and vibrant community life in the province and providing all residents with a full range of social and cultural opportunities.

The Progressive Conservative government recognized that the following were ministry priorities for addressing this need: (1) strengthening the volunteer base for citizenship and cultural activities through volunteer and leadership training programs; and (2) improving recognition of the vast contribution that volunteers make to social and cultural life and of the natural link between volunteerism and citizenship development.

As the minister may be aware, Ontario's cultural communities and native people are a particular concern in the face of the province's economic transformation, since the barriers to their full participation require special efforts to ensure they contribute fully to the province's economy and share in the benefits.

The Progressive Conservative government recognized that the following were ministry priorities for addressing this situation: (1) ensuring the realization of the full economic potential of newcomers and immigrants through the ministry's settlement and adaptation programs; and (2) providing enhanced opportunities for native economic development.

I would like to ask the Minister of Citizenship and Culture whether she agrees that the Liberal government should also address the multicultural priorities I have outlined. If so, what, specifically, is her ministry doing in this regard; and if not, why not?

On November 18, 1985, I asked the Premier to state the Liberal Party's policy on multiculturalism and to table it in the Legislature forthwith. I mentioned that since taking office in June 1985, his government has paid lipservice to multiculturalism and simply ignored the needs of the diverse cultural communities in Ontario.

Your leader replied that he represented a party that has been the author of the philosophy of multiculturalism and that this is something in which Liberals believe and are doing something about. If that was the case, then your party should have had a multiculturalism policy in place when it took office, which your Premier has yet to table in this House. Since the Premier is not prepared to table his party's multiculturalism policy, we can only assume the Liberal Party of Ontario does not have one.

11:30 a.m.

It is one thing for your leader to say how much your party cares about multiculturalism and it is another thing for a government to make the commitment and bring forward a meaningful policy and programs to address this important subject.

In conclusion, I will be looking for more substance and less rhetoric and show from the Liberal government, particularly from the Minister of Citizenship and Culture in this area. I have about 22 questions that flow out of my statement that I am going to leave with the minister. I hope she will find time to answer them. I would like to hear what she has to say on those.

Then I would like to move to some other questions I have. I was hoping Mr. Ruprecht would have been here because I would like to ask him some questions. Some of these are addressed to him specifically.

Hon. Ms. Munro: He will be here.

The Vice-Chairman: Hold them over.

Mr. Grande: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: Is it possible that Mr. Leluk can put

those questions on the record or may I have a copy of the questions he is asking? Then I will be knowledgeable, when the minister replies, as to the specific question on which she is replying.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Is that acceptable, Mr. Leluk?

Mr. Leluk: That is fine.

Hon. Ms. Munro: We can give you a copy.

Mrs. Marland: What is going to be the order? As the main opposition party, there are two critics. I am prepared to make my statement initially as the critic for culture.

The Vice-Chairman: Okay, yes. I am sorry. Normally that would be the correct procedure.

Mr. Grande: May I interject? Since the Liberal Party requires, as the honourable member said, two ministers in that portfolio and the Progressive Conservative Party requires two critics in the portfolio, I would give way to the Conservative Party critic for culture.

The Vice-Chairman: Thank you; that shows that you are indeed a cultured critic.

Mr. Leluk: Would it be possible for me to proceed with my questioning of the first minister and maybe I could hold back the two or three questions I have for the auxiliary minister of this ministry?

The Vice-Chairman: Do you want to put the questions on the record?

Mr. Leluk: I have some questions I want to put on the record to the first minister and to the auxiliary minister. However, as I say, I could proceed with my questioning of the first minister and await Mr. Ruprecht's appearance here to ask him the two or three questions I have specifically of him.

The Vice-Chairman: On the understanding that the minister will answer later, after the other critics have made their statements?

Mr. Leluk: Yes, I just want to get these on the record.

The Vice-Chairman: Yes, okay. Do that.

Mrs. Marland: What has happened to the questions that have been handed in? Will they appear in the Hansard?

The Vice-Chairman: They will certainly appear in the Hansard. At least, they should appear in the Hansard. I should not say certainly. They will not?

Mr. Grande: If they are not read they will not.

Mrs. Marland: Then I think Mr. Leluk should read those 22 questions into the record.

The Vice-Chairman: Are those the questions you are talking about?

Mr. Leluk: No, these are questions I have left with the minister for her to respond to.

The Vice-Chairman: The others will be read in when you address them to Mr. Ruprecht.

Mr. Leluk: I was hoping I could proceed. I only have nine questions. Three of these are for Mr. Ruprecht. The remainder are for Ms. Munro.

Mrs. Marland: What I am getting at is I would like the 22 questions you have handed in read into Hansard. That means you are going to have to read them so they are in Hansard.

Mr. Leluk: They all flow out of the statement I have just made. They are all in the speech.

The Vice-Chairman: Just so we are clear, you handed in some to the minister. What is it you are going to read now? These are different ones?

Mr. Leluk: These are different questions.

The Vice-Chairman: Okay.

Mr. Leluk: Those questions I have handed in flow out of my statement. They are contained in the statement. They are specific questions to the minister and I hope we can have some answers to them at some point.

The Vice-Chairman: Those will be dealt with as though you are making them individually, verbally, some time during the course of the estimates.

Mr. McKessock: Have you already asked those 22 questions in your statement?

Mr. Leluk: Yes.

Mr. McKessock: They are just a repeat of the questions you have already asked.

Mr. Leluk: Yes, so I do not see any purpose in reading them into the record.

Mrs. Marland: We did not know that was what they were.

The Vice-Chairman: Thank you, Mrs. Marland, for clarifying that for us all. Mr. Leluk is going to continue the proceedings, and then Mrs. Marland.

Mr. Leluk: I would like to ask the minister if the Liberal government will carry through with its election promise, made by the Premier, to provide annual core funding for immigrants and cultural minorities above the multicultural service program grants which are now in place?

Can the minister enlighten us as to why there are two vacant positions on the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship,

and why these positions have not been filled since they were vacated? The positions I am specifically referring to are those of a staff researcher and a secretary. Does she not feel it is important to have these positions filled so that the council can function properly?

Mr. Grande: As we have only eight hours and the time is obviously short, I would suggest to Mr. Leluk that when we come to a vote-by-vote basis for those items he can then ask those questions directly under those votes.

Mr. Leluk: I have only four more questions. I was making a statement and I would like to continue asking these questions and then they will be on the record.

Mr. Grande: If you are saying to me that you are not planning to be here for the next six or seven hours, then I would say fine.

Mr. Leluk: I did not say that.

Mr. Grande: My suggestion is that those questions would be properly put under the appropriate vote as opposed to being put now. This is a leadoff, not a question period.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Leluk has chosen to include these questions in his introductory statement, and to some extent you are giving the minister an opportunity to get some meaty answers to them instead of having to say, when they do come up, "I will have to consult on them."

Mr. Leluk: See how co-operative we can be on this out of the House?

Mr. Grande: I apologize. I thought he had completed his statement.

The Vice-Chairman: Please proceed, Mr. Leluk.

Mr. Leluk: During the last election campaign, the Liberal Party indicated it would extend on-the-job training in English as a second language to immigrant women. Your leader has also said we can do much more to ensure that government programs are made more accessible to women of all cultural and linguistic backgrounds through offering services in the different languages of Ontario people.

What new government services will your ministry be providing and in what languages?

What is the current status of the transfer of the native community workers program to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and will the ministry agree to funding the program when it is transferred?

As the Minister of Citizenship and Culture may be aware, her ministry was named the lead

ministry for immigrant settlement on February 1, 1984. What is the current status for the publication of an interministerial bulletin on settlement-related issues, and may I please have a copy?

My other questions were for Mr. Ruprecht, and I will hold those until he arrives here before this committee. Thank you.

11:40 a.m.

The Vice-Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Leluk. That completes your opening statement and questions.

Mrs. Marland: May I say it is a pleasure for me to take part in this process today in my position as official opposition critic for culture, especially since I have the honour of representing in the Legislature of Ontario the very diverse and multicultural city of Mississauga. It is a city of almost 375,000 people and it is the ninth largest city in Canada. In some ways, it is not dissimilar to the description the minister gave in her opening statement about the city she represents.

Mississauga also has a first-class philharmonic orchestra. We have a number of small theatres and are also fortunate to have many organized multicultural celebrations. We have a multicultural council. Several talented amateur opera companies operate very successfully because of volunteerism.

We envy the fact that the minister's home city does have an art gallery, because that is the next project that would have very high priority for Mississauga. We are looking forward to having funding from her ministry to help us with our major project in terms of the arts, both performing and visual—our arts centre.

As you may be aware, the city of Mississauga is in the process of constructing a \$55-million civic centre. This is the first time that our 10-year old city has had a city hall which has been built for that purpose. We are currently housed in what was an office building and several other auxiliary buildings, so we are looking forward to the completion of the civic centre which we hope will have an arts centre adjacent to the new city hall.

It is both notable for the record and reassuring that the minister's statement on the estimates of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to the standing committee on general government today stands as a document which, in itself, is a testimonial to the excellence of the ministry.

As a Progressive Conservative, I am very proud that the minister, in her introduction, gave a gracious compliment to the staff of this ministry. That is a most worthy comment and it is singularly significant that you made that state-

ment. I am also extremely proud, as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party, that it was our party which established this ministry and maintained it with the excellent staff that it has. Obviously, it has been a tremendous asset to the wellbeing of the people who reside in our great province. So I am both proud of the history and the accomplishments.

Before posing a number of questions to the minister, I would like to take this opportunity to establish just what we believe to be the focus of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and the role that this ministry must play in enhancing our arts and culture and our developing cultural industry, and thereby establish a framework for my questions today.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture was established by the Progressive Conservative government to recognize the rich and diverse society that exists in Ontario today. It was given the mandate of promoting harmony among our many and varied cultural interests, giving high priority to the human values and goals that exist in conflict with our increasingly technological world.

As an objective, we worked towards bringing together the 85 ethnocultural groups that make up Ontario society today to share our rich traditions in the experience of citizenship and community. This objective necessitates a high recognition of the creative genius of our people and the enrichment that the expression of such shared experiences can bring to our lives.

Our bicentennial celebrations provided a wonderful expression of citizenship and cultural heritage and an opportunity for all to share and understand our diverse heritage while developing and displaying our artistic talents and interests.

Most important, we recognized that the arts make and will increasingly make a significant contribution to the economic wellbeing of our province. We established the role of government to not only fund artistic endeavours but also as a promoter of the arts, encouraging the independence and self-reliance of the arts community by working to create a climate that fosters these principles.

The arts, as we recognized, needed and received a secure commitment to funding through established program funding. The integrity of arts groups, both performing and visual, and interests as nonpolitical bodies was respected. Hence the mandate of the Ontario Arts Council.

Further, we took on the very necessary role of promoting the arts as an integral component of

our lives, and worked towards increasing this consciousness in every individual Ontarian. I am pleased that the minister has reaffirmed her government's commitment to some of the principles we have established.

I wish to pursue, more specifically, the direction of these policies within the context of my remarks today. I would like to ask the minister about that. Where do you personally rank the budget for culture in the overall scheme of financial responsibility in the government's budget?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Do you wish me to respond now? I happen to feel—

Mr. Grande: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: If we begin to get into questions and answers at this point, I am afraid we are going to spend the whole eight hours on that process. Let us get on with the policy directions that we feel are necessary in this ministry, then we can go to questions. I do not care if we stay on the main vote for the rest of the time, but let us do it on the main vote.

11:50 a.m.

The Vice-Chairman: I think that is probably fair. I accept that as a valid point of order because the questions that were asked by the other critic were for a response later. Mr. Grande is right. If we get into questions and answers here, that will breed another question and another answer and we will be into discussion instead of the opening statement.

Mrs. Marland: If I knew at the outset what the minister's personal answer was to that question, it might eliminate some of my other questions. It is up to you, Mr. Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman: To be fair to everyone, we should stick with the procedure.

Mrs. Marland: The previous minister, Susan Fish, made a practice of entering into ongoing negotiations on bilateral cultural issues with her federal counterpart. It is my understanding that strengthening our cultural organizations at the community level, how to promote our own cultural industry and joint funding ventures to bring French-language television to our citizens were issues that were included in such discussions.

I would like to know what the Liberal position is on cultural free trade with the United States. With reference to the principle of the co-operative federal-provincial process, which the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has discussed, what discussions have you had with Mr. Masse on behalf of the developing Ontario cultural indus-

try? What cultural industries do you consider promoting and protecting within this context? How do you plan to accomplish these objectives? If you have not entered into such negotiations, why not; and do you plan to do so in the immediate future?

I am pleased the Liberal government has moved to ensure the future of Science North by establishing it as a crown corporation and by providing funding, as had been initiated by the Progressive Conservative government. The board of directors has not yet been appointed, to my knowledge. There has been no indication as to when or what the composition of this board will be or what is the ministry's concern respecting the appointment of local members. Specifically, how does the ministry intend to handle the concerns respecting the appointment of a local auditor?

There is \$772 million allocated in the 1985 estimates. I would like to know where the additional money has come from as it pertains to the budget for Science North. I also have a question about the discrepancy between the \$224 million in the estimates and your list of total expenditures in the budget, documented at \$214 million. This morning you did acknowledge that it is now \$216 million, and you are going to give me the answers on the \$8 million; so that deals with that question.

On the Theatres Amendment Act, what is the Liberal government's position with respect to the application of the Theatres Act? In view of the statements made by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) indicating an indifference to censorship regulation in this province, how would your ministry receive requests from the arts community asking for exemptions for certain nonprofit clients, such as the gallery?

With regard to payment for public use programs, which I understand are the royalties to authors whose books are held in public libraries, have you discussed this concept with your federal counterparts? If so, what is the outcome of this discussion? If the Liberal government believes this to be a favourable principle, what plans do you have for implementation? Have you consulted the arts community on this issue? If so, what impact would this have on the total amount of funding made available for the arts industry?

Let me turn to the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry theatre group, the Upper Canada Playhouse. In exploring the interrelationship of tourism and our cultural industry, I want to pursue the matter of the continued viability of

theatre in the Cornwall area. This question is raised at the request of my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve).

Upper Canada Playhouse has demonstrated, by breaking even at the end of the 1985 season, that there is good potential for a successful theatre in this region of Ontario. I would therefore like to ask the minister whether any consideration is being given to establishing a permanent home for this theatre group, perhaps near or even on the Upper Canada Village site. Such a location would serve as an added attraction to the existing exhibits and would increase the accessibility to theatre for visiting tourists, while utilizing existing facilities. Obviously it would be great to have culture enhance the tourist industry.

What plans does the government have to extend TVOntario programming to the viewing audience in eastern Ontario, beyond the Kingston and Belleville regions and into the city of Cornwall and surrounding area?

With respect to the Gore's Landing issue, what was the result of the investigations into the potential conflict resulting from the possible existence of a heritage building on this site?

The ministry has announced an increase of library grants by 5.6 per cent. Can the minister confirm that this increase will not be at the expense of other existing programs? Can she explain how the additional expenditure is possible?

Where your ministry has a five-year plan, have you considered looking at a five-year plan as it pertains to the responsibility in the area of culture? If you have one or are in the stage of proposing one, could I know what it is? I would see a five-year plan as being both obviously financial and philosophical in terms of the future planning and future programming for culture in Ontario. Indeed, I would like to know whether you have or are proposing to have a cultural policy, period.

12 noon

I have a further concern as cultural critic. I note that in your statement—and it is hard to respond on the spot to a statement that has just been presented—on page 14 you discuss the economic impact and then you talk about education. I am relating them because it leads to a concern of mine in the area of education.

We are aware of the tremendous crafts industry, in the eastern provinces in particular, and the extensive funding programs they have for this industry. It has a marvellous result in both

the development of crafts and the economic impact for those provinces. When you specify, as you do, under economic impact, that you intend to see that culture gets the attention it deserves as an economic development priority, then you are recognizing that the crafts industry, as part of culture, is an economic priority.

Are you aware that in Ontario, education for the crafts sector is beginning to diminish? I plan to have more specific questions later in this area, but I am including it in my opening statement. I have a grave concern that the programming currently being offered by colleges and universities around the province is being reduced in the arts and crafts areas.

I am trying to establish what is happening with the future of the Sheridan College school of design, which is part of Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology. It so happens that this school of design is geographically within my riding of Mississauga South, and I see long-range adverse implications in any reduction in the educational area for crafts and arts, both performing and visual. The long-range implications will be that we will possibly lose, not only in the obvious area of cultural aspects and their benefits but also in the economic industrial area.

Would you, through your office, involve the Ministry of Education in its responsibility to colleges and universities, and would you consider recommending that it report to you specifically on what programs are currently being offered in the universities and colleges around the province and on what the ongoing long-range plans are for programming in those areas of the arts that directly reflect in culture? When you have a report from the Ministry of Education on what programs it currently has and what its long-range plans are, would you share it with me?

After you have evaluated the status of the report of the Ministry of Education, would you be willing to recommend reinforcement and enlargement of those programs if you see it necessary to protect the industries related to those areas in our province?

The bottom line is, would the minister be willing to give very firm direction to the Ministry of Education from the cultural aspect of our province?

Those are my questions at the moment. I respect that detailed questions are not really part of the opening process.

The Vice-Chairman: That is right, Mrs. Marland. Thank you. Mr. Grande, the moment you have been waiting for has arrived.

Mr. Grande: I do not know if this is the moment I have been waiting for. I have had quite a lot of these moments, so I am used to them.

The Vice-Chairman: You do not mean you are jaded, I hope.

Mr. Grande: Not jaded, never. Every time I tackle it with more vigour than ever.

First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to the minister for her appointment as Minister of Citizenship and Culture. I know that in the past four to five months you have demonstrated a real interest in the field and I am sure you will carry on with the duties and do a good job.

There are, of course, some provisos to that. In order for you to be doing that good job, you have to have the clout necessary in cabinet in order to get the necessary funds that this ministry—and I agree with you—rightly deserves.

This is one of the ministries, if not the only ministry in government, that deals directly with the quality of the lives of all the people of Ontario. As such, it is important, but without the necessary funds, you can stretch them only a certain amount and then that is that.

I do not envy the position you are in now. For the past several years I have been before this committee, beginning with Mr. Welch as the minister, and then with Susan Fish and other ministers in between.

Your colleagues, such as the present Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio), was the critic for this ministry, as was Hugh O'Neil. I am hesitant in thinking that people like Mr. Kerrio have changed a tremendous amount over the years. He put it very clearly one time: "At a time of restraint, this is the ministry that should be cut back. This is the ministry that ought not to have any increase at all." He did consider the arts to be frills in our society.

That is an attitude that I hope Mr. Kerrio has changed or you will be enlightening him on. Knowing him, I think it takes a tremendous amount of effort for him to change. However, all is not lost. Therefore, I sincerely wish you all the best in getting the cabinet to accept the need for more funding in this ministry.

12:10 p.m.

I want to talk briefly about the briefing book. I do not want to go on at great length, but the briefing book I was provided with is skimpy, to say the least. Aside from the item-by-item budget items you have there and the amounts of money appropriated to that particular item in the budget, I really cannot understand from the briefing book

the kinds of things the ministry has done, the kinds of directions the ministry wants to take, whether certain projects were brought to completion, at what stage they are, etc.

Your people in the ministry can spend a little bit more time in outlining some of the programs—not a tremendous amount; we really do not need a tremendous amount because we follow the different programs the ministry has—in terms of the state of completion, where they are at, what new programs the ministry is developing and where they fit within the budget.

One can read, and I do, all the press releases that come from your office. I suppose it could be up to me to maintain all those press releases and put them in the briefing book when I receive them. That could happen; I could do that. However, it would be tremendously helpful to me and to other members who may not know or understand the ministry in specific detail to know at what stage those programs are and in what kind of direction the ministry is thinking of going with the new programs it is creating.

Over the past several months, I started to once again have the consultations with the arts groups that the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), my predecessor in this portfolio, started to have two or three years back. I began that process and brought together a group of about 15 to 20 people representing different cultural industries, theatres, other arts groups, etc. Basically, I wanted to move on with them from where we had left off with the consultations prior to the election that was called in April or May of this year.

To my amazement, those 15 to 20 people wanted to talk about nothing else but free trade and what free trade will do to the culture of this province and country, how free trade is going to impact on the cultural industry of this province—in Canada as a whole, but of course in Ontario because for all practical purposes, Ontario is the seat of 70 to 80 per cent, if not more, of activities within the cultural industry. The arts groups reside in Metropolitan Toronto in particular. Some people do not like that; they think it should be elsewhere. However, it is here.

We were not able—at least I was not able—to go beyond that about free trade, book publishing, film, magazines, you name it. Because of what has happened in Ottawa since September of last year—it has been happening for the past year and a half but no one was really paying much attention until it was announced that our Prime Minister was going to ask the President of the United States to begin negotiations—there is a tremendous fear and a tremendous concern.

I guess fear is the only way to describe it. What will happen? How is free trade in Conservative terminology going to help the book publishing industry, an industry that seven, eight or 10 years ago had four per cent of our own provincial market? This has gone from four per cent to somewhere between 18 and 20 per cent right now in terms of Canadian authors and Canadian-published books.

It is an industry that with some encouragement and some incentives would be able to do well. All of a sudden, they fear it would be a return to the old days, where there is not going to be a Canadian industry any longer. The example that really brought it to a point or a focus was the Gulf and Western acquisition of Prentice-Hall. What is going to happen there? What is Investment Canada going to decide? Are they going to decide that Gulf and Western should have control of Prentice-Hall?

If that is going to take place, then what is going to happen to Canadian publications? What is going to happen to the books by Canadian authors? Foreign publishers are not prone to publish Canadian authors. As far as they are concerned, it is a business venture. If they perceive the book of a Canadian author is a good book, at least in their eyes, a saleable book, then they will publish it so that they will receive the benefits of the profits.

However, it will not be on the principle that publishing a Canadian book by a Canadian author will give the Canadian people or the people of Ontario a glimpse of themselves or an idea of themselves, of what they are about or their identity. That does not come into consideration.

The Vice-Chairman: I hate to interrupt your beautiful flow of rhetoric. We had agreed at the beginning we would sit for two hours. Do you have a small amount you would like to finish now, or are you wound up for another hour or so?

Mr. Grande: If you wish I will stop here. It certainly was no flow of rhetoric.

The Vice-Chairman: I thought that was a beautiful flow.

Mr. Grande: Maybe so, but it was sincere.

The Vice-Chairman: Rhetoric is not always insincere; it can also be sincere.

Mr. Grande: Thank you. I will end it here and begin in the afternoon.

The Vice-Chairman: Are you not quite finished yet?

Mr. Grande: No, I am not quite finished yet.

The Vice-Chairman: All right. As we agreed, we will adjourn now until two o'clock.

The committee adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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From the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture:

Wood, D. M., Executive Director, Finance and Administration Division



No. G-12

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government

Estimates, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Wednesday, January 8, 1986

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, January 8, 1986

The committee resumed at 2:02 p.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE (continued)

The Vice-Chairman: We are ready to continue. We regret Mr. Grande had to be interrupted by the lunch hour. Maybe everybody will be even more ready to listen to his good words.

Mr. Grande: I am glad. I can begin where I left off. I believe I was talking about the book publishing industry, Gulf and Western, the acquisition of Prentice-Hall Canada Inc., the decision Investment Canada is going to be making, or supposedly should have made by December 31, and the consequences that decision—while one can say it is an Investment Canada decision, it is the decision of the government of Canada—will have on the cultural industries and culture in the whole of the country.

I want to say briefly I agree strongly with the statement the minister has made in the sense that she supports the new policy of the government of Canada—for however long it lasts and I hope it lasts—and has communicated that policy to the Association of Canadian Publishers. I want to put on the record where the minister says in a letter to Ms. McKehan:

“On behalf of Premier Peterson and the government of Ontario, I am pleased to inform you that this government endorses a new policy aimed at repatriating a significant part of the book publishing industry by requiring applicants to Investment Canada to form partnerships under Canadian control within two years of the direct or indirect acquisition of Canadian publishing enterprises at a fair market price.

“During the federal-provincial ministers’ conference last month, I advised my colleagues across the country that Ontario supports the book publishing policy and its vital importance in the control of our cultural destiny.”

I want to associate myself with that policy direction. It is clear. It certainly says to the federal government, to our American neighbours and whoever else wants to listen, where Ontario stands in regard to book publishing in Ontario and in Canada, for that matter, but in Ontario in particular.

I want to move on to the film industry. While I applaud the minister’s policy direction in the book publishing industry, she has not been so direct in the film industry. In the last two to three weeks, a federal task force report came down—with which I and the New Democratic Party very closely associate ourselves—which basically says we need to have a strong film industry, or a stronger film industry than we have at the present time. We want to encourage our film industry. We want our film industry to create good feature films that talk to Canadians and are about Canadians and thereby enhance our cultural industry.

However, I assume the minister thought that by announcing the policy of the Ontario Film Development Corp. that was the end of that for the film industry. I say to the minister that the industry has applauded that move. It was not a move that a Liberal administration in particular made; it was a move that had been in the works for the last couple years. It just happens to have been announced at the time there was a change in government.

I want to return, perhaps for a few brief moments, to Robert Welch in his stay as the Minister of Culture and Recreation at that time. I said to him back then that to encourage and foster the film industry, we needed an influx of capital into it. I did not say to him that the influx of capital should come from the government. I really do not think that is necessary.

I believe the distributors of foreign films are doing quite well. At least in some form, money should be provided through the profits they make. I am not telling the minister or the government to take away their profits or whatever. That is not the case. What is the case is that we have to return to the quota system, or talk about a quota system whereby these theatre chains would have to show a certain percentage of Canadian films, or we have to establish a box office levy so that a pool of capital is developed through which our own industry can create our own feature films.

2:10 p.m.

Quebec tried to move in that direction; not in a very direct kind of way. It was trying to take on a certain amount of the distribution of the films in Quebec. As a matter of fact, they went as far as

having the Cinema Act, which their assembly passed but was never proclaimed. The reason it was never proclaimed was that our American neighbours put a tremendous amount of pressure on the Parti québécois and the federal government not to have it proclaimed.

Obviously, it is in their best interest to leave things alone. It is in their best interest to have free trade so that they can control 100 per cent of the market instead of leaving us four, five or 10 per cent of our own market in Ontario.

I suppose if I were on the other side, I would argue the same way they do. However, it is not in the best interests of Canada or Ontario to have our cultural industry completely and totally dominated by a foreign country. Whether it is the United States or another country is not the point. Therefore, I return to the report which came down three weeks ago, which talks to the fundamental problems of the industry, namely, production and distribution. Canadians have to have control of that production and distribution.

When the minister was asked about the report by a reporter—and I do not know if she had read the report or if she was caught off guard—she sounded as if the route Quebec took was not a good one. Who knows, therefore, whether we are going to do anything about accepting the recommendations of this report from the federal task force?

I understand it is a federal task force. I understand also that it would be desirable for the federal government to move in that direction. However, if the federal government does not, then what does Ontario do? Ontario has jurisdiction over distribution of films and licensing. Therefore, the province has the power to some extent to put the recommendations of that report into effect.

I have talked about the publishing industry and the film industry. I could talk about the magazine industry, TV, and broadcasting, but that is not necessary here. What is necessary is for the federal government to move in the direction that ensures Canadians have control of their communications network. If the federal government decides, for whatever reasons, not to do so, then Ontario has to look very carefully at what powers it has in order to accomplish this. We cannot abandon it.

We cannot go on for the next 60 or 70 years in Ontario and Canada having task force after task force and not act on any of its recommendations. If some action is taken, it is a very minuscule kind of action. I believe the climate right now, given the free trade fear or fears that have arisen,

not only in the province but in Canada as a whole, is the right climate for us to be moving in the direction of strengthening our control of these industries and thereby strengthening our sovereignty over our nation.

I feel strongly about that. I want to impress upon the minister that we have to go in that direction. If our neighbours to the south do not like it—and I understand why they do not—we are a separate country and—

Mr. Hennessy: Declare war. You be the general.

Mr. Grande: The member for—what is it, Fort Francis?

Mr. Hennessy: Do not worry about what it is.

Mr. Grande: Mickey said, "Declare war." I do not think it is a declaration of war at all, but certainly some of the remarks some people in the United States have made about ourselves amount almost to a declaration of war. When one speaks of scorched earth responses, one can only interpret that as, "Either you do as we say or else."

I do not think that as a nation we should be intimidated by that. We should deal with our neighbouring nations in a nonthreatening manner. If trade is beneficial to both countries and both countries see it to be beneficial to them, it happens. They get involved in that kind of trade. However, it is not one nation forcing another nation to bend to its will.

Mr. Hennessy: Did you read in the paper the other day where the United States film-makers and television-makers have made 50 movies in Toronto and left millions of dollars here as a result of people such as actors working here? I think Kane and Abel was made in Toronto. It was the only one I remember seeing, but there were 50 of them.

The fellow said they are always booking movies or television specials to come to Ontario to use the location. He said they are leaving millions of dollars here and that the actors, actresses and all kinds of people in that business are securing employment. He said we have exceptional people in Ontario.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Hennessy, that is very interesting, but I would request you to keep your debating until the member is finished with his statement, even if you do not happen to agree with everything he says.

Mr. Hennessy: He replied to me. I agree with everything he says.

The Vice-Chairman: You are in trouble.

Mr. Grande: Or I am in trouble.

The Vice-Chairman: Maybe we are all in trouble. Mr. Grande, I will not ask you to ignore interjections, as the Speaker sometimes does, but try to rise above them.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, if you feel the interjections are not to the point, you are the chairman.

The Vice-Chairman: I want to give you the full opportunity to finish your opening remarks without being sniped at. Later on, it will be okay.

Mr. Grande: Thank you. As far as free trade is concerned, I will leave it at that. For sure, we will have more to say in the coming months, since I understand that some time in June negotiations will or may begin, depending upon the American Congress and how it wants to deal with it.

However, I want to stress it is an opportunity for us not to miss. I hope we are not going to go back to forgetting about these very important issues that need to be dealt with in the Canadian context.

I want to move on to art support. In her opening remarks, the minister talked about the massive underfunding that has occurred in the arts in the last several years. Of course, the minister is correct; there has been a tremendous underfunding. Arts groups and institutions have told the government this year in and year out. The previous government used to say: "We are in a time of restraint. Dollars are limited and we cannot do very much about that."

2:20 p.m.

However, let us consider some research the Council for Business and the Arts in Canada did, which was released in February. It talks about 53 groups from Ontario that reported in the survey, including theatres, orchestras, cultural institutions and cultural groups. It points out that out of \$75 million in generated revenue, \$44 million came from the box office; \$21 million came from four levels of government and \$9.2 million came from private and corporate donations. When you work it out, it shows that Ontario's support of the arts through the Ontario Arts Council—by the way, the statistics are for 1983-84, the last ones we have—is eight cents for every dollar spent, at least for these 53 groups that reported.

No other country I am aware of funds the arts at that low level. No other province in Canada funds the arts at that low level. The Canada Council gave 13 cents to the dollar and the municipal level of government, 5.6 cents to the dollar. What is happening, because the provin-

cial government is underfunding these institutions, is that these groups are looking to the municipal level of government for more and more support.

That trend has to be reversed and I hope this minister, this present government, will do just that. I agree it has to be through the Ontario Arts Council. The arm's-length relationship has to be maintained because I am convinced, as everyone is in the arts community, that we cannot have any level of government dictating to the arts in a free society. It is just not done.

I want briefly to go through some other issues, including multiculturalism, which my friend Mr. Leluk brought forward. In his exposé, the member for York West went over what the previous administration has done over the last 10 years.

I want to say to him that the previous government received the fruits of what it did or did not do. Last May the people of this province decided that the government was no longer reflecting their needs, their wishes, their desires or their aspirations for the future.

Mr. Leluk: I might remind the member for Oakwood that this party came in with 52 seats. That election was won by us; it was not lost by us. Okay?

Mr. Hennessy: There was a shotgun marriage.

Mr. Leluk: That is right. Get your facts accurate.

The Vice-Chairman: Let us leave that for later, out in the corridor.

Mr. Leluk: I am correcting an inaccuracy in the statement that was made by the member for Oakwood. We won the election last year.

Mr. Wiseman: There was a marriage there someplace but we would like to see an annulment.

Mr. Grande: Just to correct that inaccuracy, the Progressive Conservative candidate in the riding of Oakwood received 17 per cent of the votes cast. That is a reflection of their support.

The Vice-Chairman: Let us return to the subject.

Mr. Grande: In the past the government tried to move in the best way it saw fit at the time. Let us leave the motivations alone for the time being as to the reasons those movements occurred.

I just want to talk briefly about multiculturalism and about three stages in multiculturalism. I have been a student of this area for the past 15 to 20 years. Therefore, I have seen, read and studied different phases of this phenomenon we

call multiculturalism. Mind you, it is a word coined by the Liberals. However, let it stay. One of these years we will change it and we will call it by its proper name.

The Vice-Chairman: What is its proper name?

Mr. Grande: I guess multiracial, multi-ethnic, different cultural groups, whatever. I really do not know, but I think "multiculturalism" does not reflect that. Somehow, "multiculturalism" implies a oneness with something.

The Vice-Chairman: Perhaps we could rest with Shakespeare's assessment of it, that what we call multiculturalism by any other name would smell as sweet.

Mr. Grande: Your definition.

I want to talk about the three phases of multiculturalism. The first was the phase of tremendous immigration in Ontario and in Canada. We are talking about the 1950s, primarily, in Ontario, the late 1940s, 1950s, and the beginning of the 1960s.

In particular, in the 1950s the immigrants came here because there was work here. The immigrants came here to do jobs that other people did not want to do, if you like. A tremendous amount of exploitation in the work place took place all the time. Some time in another forum I will relate some of those experiences that my father had when he came here in 1951, exploitation that occurred to him personally.

Basically, they came here and they built the hotels. They built the skyline. They built whatever was needed to be built.

Then we go into the next phase of multiculturalism. As numbers of immigrants grew, the political system decided: "They are here. Now, how can we use them?" They were politically exploited. We go into that phase of multiculturalism that some people call folkloric multiculturalism. "Here is your \$3,000 or \$4,000. Go ahead and do your dance somewhere," or "Here is your \$1,000. Set up a conference. Call your kind and talk among yourselves about what needs to be done or what you want to do. Get together in your group. Set up a congress. Do this and do that." That is the political exploitation part of multiculturalism.

For good or bad, the previous government in this province was more than willing to remain at that stage of multiculturalism, the folkloric multiculturalism. The little bit of the heritage languages program of 1977 was a token gesture. "People are screaming about this. Let us do as little as possible but let us do it."

The question now is that most, if not all, of the ethnic communities have become more and more integrated into the society as a whole. Therefore, there may be a different level of advancement there. A good number of these groups have moved away from the folkloric and governments would also do well to move away from the folkloric.

2:30 p.m.

They moved into the stage I call real multiculturalism, where they say, "The language of my group or my country of origin is important to me and is important to my kids and I want it to be used in the schools." A good number of people may disagree with that, but I am telling you what these communities are saying.

Another aspect is that, because of the exploitation that has occurred in the past, they are saying: "I am here. We are here. We have clout."

In Metropolitan Toronto, people of non-English and non-French backgrounds spend approximately \$6 billion to \$7 billion a year in goods and other expenditures. Therefore, they are realizing that they have clout and that because their children did get an education, right now is the time their children should be moving, dare I say it, into positions of responsibility and power.

It is as stark as that. In other words, they are looking at a shared power. They want in. You can shut them out for as long as you want, but that energy and drive will not deter them or hold them back for very long. What they are saying is: "I am a Canadian citizen and I belong here. I am here and I should not have fewer rights than any other Canadian citizen."

When we think about this, I am sure we would agree with it. After all, as one report many years ago said, "We are all immigrants to this place." We come from one country or another. Some of us have been able to get power and hold on to it and we do not want to share it with anybody.

As a New Democrat, I look at multiculturalism as an imbalance of power that has to be rectified. That is true multiculturalism. As soon as we come to that understanding and conclusion, we will be moving ahead instead of staying in that folkloric stage, as the previous government wanted to do.

I want to talk about the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship, which my friend from York West talked about. In 1972, it made sense. In 1986, it does not make sense any more, unless the recommendations that the council puts forward are truly accepted by government.

I have studied most of the reports of that council for the last 10 years and I can find only a handful of recommendations that were accepted by government. Most of the fundamental recommendations have been rejected or are under consideration.

In other words, the true multiculturalism that I was referring to, reflected through a good number of the recommendations of the advisory council, is not being accepted by government. Therefore, I come to the conclusion that either you begin to take a look at some of those recommendations and seriously implement them or get rid of the council. We do not need it.

People in the communities can speak for themselves and they are quite able to speak for themselves. They do not need the advisory council to speak for them, unless the government begins to consider seriously those recommendations and accept them or say to the council and to the community, "We cannot accept this recommendation for this and that reason."

If it is sensible, people will accept it. But if the government does not accept those recommendations and says nothing about them, the communities are not going to go away or shut themselves in their houses or go back to their communities and say, "Our time has not come yet."

I say to my friend the member for York West, I hope we can begin to talk about the true multiculturalism we need to talk about in this province. One of those items of true multiculturalism is the acceptance of language.

It is no longer acceptable to the cultural groups that heritage language classes should take place on Saturday mornings or after school. They demand it should take place within the school day and during school hours because it is part of the Canadian identity. It is a Canadian identity which I have and which probably the member for York West has along with 30 or 33 per cent of the people of this province. I want to leave that for the time being. We will have other opportunities—

Mr. Leluk: I do not like to interrupt the member for Oakwood but we were promised this morning by the minister that we would have some financial data at two o'clock this afternoon. It is now 2:35.

I also asked whether the second minister for this ministry would be present during the ballot items, because I have some questions for him as well. I would like to know from the minister whether we have the financial data that we asked for and were promised so we can have a look at

those figures and whether the second minister is going to be present for the ballot items today.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, the financial information is available. I was going to give a short preamble. It is available now and we can pass it out. I thought perhaps you would like to listen to Mr. Grande as he makes his opening statement.

Mr. Leluk: With all due respect, we were told we would have that information at two o'clock.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The information is here.

Mr. Leluk: There are those of us who would like to look at it before you make your preamble and before we get into the different agencies that are here and that are going to be getting into ballot items.

Hon. Ms. Munro: That is satisfactory. We had it at 12:30 p.m. and you may have it now.

Mr. Leluk: Thank you very much. With respect to the second question, will Mr. Ruprecht be here?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, he will be.

The Vice-Chairman: Back to you, Mr. Grande.

Mr. Grande: I hope we can proceed without any other interruptions. I would appreciate the same courtesy that I extended to the member for York West.

Mr. Leluk: I did apologize, but we were promised that information.

Mr. Grande: As I was saying, the other question which relates to the true multiculturalism to which I am referring has to do with jobs, and jobs that are of importance in the decision-making process.

Since 1978, I have put a series of questions on the Orders and Notices almost constantly regarding visible minorities and ethnic groups in this province. It was done to basically find out what are the employment practices of the government of Ontario. To what extent do the different ministries within the government of Ontario reflect the reality out there?

In 1978, the Conservative government did answer the question. We had a minority government at that time. Since 1981, that administration refused to answer the questions by saying: "We do not collect that kind of information. It is against the Human Rights Code." However, it is not, because I cleared it with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. At least I cleared it; now whether the ministers who answered those questions cleared it or not is up to them.

2:40 p.m.

I want to know. People in cultural communities demand that they know. If Ontario is an equal opportunity employer, we want the proof to be shown. The answers I received from the new administration, while they gave me some reason to believe we are going to be moving in that direction and that we are at least going to have known statistics, still indicate to me that this is being put off to some time in the future.

It was put off to find out from the Human Rights Commission whether anybody could determine whether a person who was hired last year is black or not. That is a bunch of nonsense. Do you not know whether the person who is working in your office is a visible minority or not?

I understand that you cannot ask in the application. When you hire you cannot ask, "Are you of this or that background?" You cannot ask that. That is against the Human Rights Code. I appreciate that. But once the person has been hired, I do not know and somebody would have to explain to me how it is against the Human Rights Code to be collecting that information. At least the human rights commission told me it is not against the Human Rights Code.

I leave it with you. As the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) is going around the province talking to the different ethnic groups, I am sure he is bringing back that information. If he is not bringing back that information, they are not telling him what is at the centre of their concerns. If he is not bringing back information about language or jobs; or wanting, needing and demanding to be part of the decision-making process, then I am sure we are going to remain in that folkloric situation I was talking about.

I want to go to two very good reports that have been produced by the federal government in the last year. They are the Equality Now! report of the Special Committee on the Participation of Visible Minorities in Canadian Society and the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Equality in Employment by Judge Rosalie Abella.

The federal government has taken a look at these reports and some action has or is being taken at that level, but it would seem to me it would make a tremendous amount of sense to have an all-party committee take a look at these reports to see whether some of the recommendations apply to Ontario, and to have hearings with people from different cultural organizations and cultural groups regarding their needs and aspirations.

I would like to know whether the minister is in agreement with that, because I think it is essential

that the government and Legislature of this province visibly do things to bring people together and take their concerns into account. Perhaps she could respond to that later.

Last year we dealt with the Public Libraries Act. I had a tremendous amount of concern about that bill, about the fact that the funding for the public libraries seems to be pushed more and more on to the shoulders of the municipal level of government. Property taxpayers cannot really absorb that. Libraries in Ontario are not a municipal function, although the previous government has made it a municipal function. The bill we had before us—at least the first draft of that bill—wanted the board of trustees of libraries to be committees of councils.

I treat libraries as cultural institutions and I believe an arm's-length relationship should exist. I certainly would not want a municipal council telling my neighbourhood library it should buy these books or other books but not those books for the library.

Several years ago, the provincial government was supporting the libraries to the tune of 20 per cent and the municipal level of government, 80 per cent. I have not figured out the increases in the minister's statement yesterday or the day before, but it is now about 14 to 15 per cent from the government, with the municipal level carrying from 85 to 86 per cent.

I think that trend should be reversed; but not because it makes a difference to the libraries whether they get municipal money or provincial money, it does not. A municipal dollar is as good as a provincial or federal dollar.

It makes a difference in terms of who controls the libraries. I want to leave you with the thought that if libraries are going to go in the direction of being under municipal control, we are going to have a different quality of library service throughout Ontario. I do not think it is fair to people in northern communities or in eastern Ontario that people in Metropolitan Toronto should have better quality library services than people in northern Ontario.

If that takes place, there is no way the government can establish provincial criteria for the running of libraries. I would like to see some kind of a plan, a five-year or six-year plan, that will move the funding of public libraries in this province to the 50/50 level.

I have had concerns about the Royal Ontario Museum for quite a while, ever since the museum started its building program, and some of those concerns still exist. I asked the chairman of the board for some answers in the last set of

estimates. He indicated he would be giving me the answers. I do not have any answers to this day. Frankly, while the people at the museum and the board of trustees can decide what they want to decide, 85 to 90 per cent of the funds are provincial funds and I think they should commit themselves to answering questions when they are asked.

I have serious concerns about the museum management and management decisions. I want to talk once again, as I did last year, to Mr. Goodman in that regard. Perhaps if Mr. Goodman reads this, or if somebody from the ministry is going to get in touch with him, he can take a look at last year's record and come here with answers to the questions I asked when we meet next time.

The minister spoke here about not making the arts elitist, but if there is an institution of an elitist nature, it is that being run by the board of trustees at the Royal Ontario Museum.

2:50 p.m.

I have a private member's bill ready. I can introduce it and you can take it from there, if you like. It would make that board a bit more responsive and a bit more reflective of the society in the province. I do not think all appointed trustees there should be wives of executives and executives in the corporate world. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) agrees that some changes in the structure of that board ought to be made.

With that, I want to conclude. I will be asking questions as we go through the votes. I hope the minister will provide as much information as she has with regard to questions on the free trade issues and what this government is going to do in the absence of any action by the federal government in those areas, and also on the other questions I have asked.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Wiseman): The minister has made a suggestion that she would perhaps answer one question from each of the critics at this time as she has had a lot of questions asked of her, and then give a preamble on the decrease of \$8.1 million mentioned in the handout everyone received 10 or 15 minutes ago.

Is that agreeable to the members? If she answered all the questions asked this morning, we would not have any time for the delegations that are here.

Mrs. Marland: What do you mean by one question from each of the critics? Why does she not answer one of the questions we have already asked her?

The Acting Chairman: One of the questions that was asked here this morning or this afternoon

by Mr. Grande and by Mr. Leluk and by yourself.

Mr. Leluk: I am prepared to wait for those answers as we go from ballot item to ballot item.

Mrs. Marland: The question I would like an answer to is one that does not apply to any one ballot. It applies to the ministry totally. I think that the minister was willing to answer that this morning. It is a fairly straightforward question. Would you like me to rephrase it?

The Acting Chairman: Perhaps we should hear the answers to the three questions—one from each of the critics—that the minister is prepared to provide at this time, and then hear the preamble she has regarding the \$8.1-million decrease in her budget.

Mrs. Marland: Oh, I see. She has already chosen three of them.

The Acting Chairman: Then we will play it by ear after that. All agreed?

Mrs. Marland: Okay; that is fine.

Hon. Ms. Munro: At the outset, the impact on me of the intensity and the depth of your statements was well taken. I would like to respond to many of the questions in writing and many of the questions in the eight hours we have here, but I think we should really have 800 hours. That is really an indication of how important I feel the ministry is.

Given that, I have selected one question from each of the critics. For Mr. Leluk, I would like to tackle the question of multiculturalism as a policy by the Liberal government and some of the initiatives we have taken. For Mrs. Marland, I would like to go into some details on cultural priorities, my feelings on them, and the relationship of those feelings to the government.

Mrs. Marland: And the cultural policy as part of that?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes. For Mr. Grande, I would like to spend time talking about cultural industries in general, and the relationship we have already established with the federal government on that issue.

I would like to start off with multiculturalism. It is obviously a very difficult term to come to grips with, as Mr. Leluk indicated at the beginning. We in Canada should take some solace, without looking for pats on the back, in the fact that we have learned to get along with each other. We have made strides and gone a long way towards improving the quality of life and making culture and multiculturalism accessible.

I do not think this Liberal government would presume for one instant to walk in and change a policy that makes a good deal of sense to the people of Ontario. When I look at the function of the Legislature, for example, any policy that a government comes out with surely has to be the result of pressures brought to bear from opposition members. I would like to feel, in fact, that over the last 42 years the opposition parties have brought to bear some feelings, actions and a good deal of concerned input on the multiculturalism policy we are currently looking at.

Having said that, the Liberals, especially on the campaign trail, did at great length articulate many concerns for a more balanced, more equitable and more accessible style of multiculturalism that would bring it in a more meaningful sense within the grasp, not only of individuals but communities, a multicultural policy that would take a look at and be cognizant of the changing demographics of the citizens of Ontario.

Mr. Grande alluded to the three faces of multiculturalism. All of us are aware of those citizens who have made such a contribution over many years and who are now going into the second and third generation. We are also aware of the tremendous contributions and challenges of newcomers. Indeed, the demographics of this province have changed.

We like to think in the ministry that we have programs and services which are responding in a meaningful way to various peoples in the province and that they are and will become representative. At the moment, you will not see us tabling a Liberal multicultural policy. What I can tell you is that we are reviewing our programs and services within the ministry and that we have several interministerial committees looking at the impact of multiculturalism as it applies throughout this government. Within the party, we are taking a look at various suggestions, which were not only articulated during the campaign but which were picked up by the people. After all, this is what multicultural policy is all about.

One of the ways we are trying to give a good clear signal to the people of Ontario in a multicultural sense is by having my colleague, Mr. Ruprecht, engage in a series of dialogues in various communities across this great province. He is attempting to seek out first-hand knowledge from communities in a nonthreatening way as to whether they feel existing programs and services are meaningful or appropriate and how they might be changed.

Given regional realities, the mix of various peoples in a particular geographic location and some of the changes in the demographics I was talking about—not the least of which are the skills people bring into this country and the desire for people to participate at the outset—we feel the challenge for this government is to not give out a signal that there is a difference between multiculturalism and culture.

In fact, multiculturalism is many cultures. The impression or the reality should never be allowed that multiculturalism simply means ghettoization. The single most important challenge of this government is to make sure there is the two-way flow I was talking about and that the contributions, characteristics, hopes, dreams and visions of our multicultural communities, our Franco-Ontarian citizens and our native communities are kept unique, because so many of us want to keep them unique, as do those people themselves.

3 p.m.

At the same time, multicultural groups must feel this is their province and they too want access to some of what we are calling the major cultural activities, industries and cultural venues.

We feel very strongly that this two-way flow must be dynamic, as dynamic as policy is. We feel some of the actions we have taken will help to make people feel comfortable in this province, comfortable with being multicultural within a healthy, viable, dynamic provincial milieu. Among the challenges the Premier has thrown out, and is quite prepared to back, is that we work towards more representative appointments to agencies, boards and commissions and make people feel comfortable as citizens of this province, that they are our children and their children's children will be our children.

We feel it is important, from a Liberal point of view—and I am sure the Legislature will share this—that we be judged in the future by the kind of steps we take forward in changing any policy, and we will do it with all the compassion and sensitivity for which we are known as politicians.

The move by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to make public a large volume of material indicating to various people the kinds of appointments to boards and commissions was one of the first steps which has made people feel very comfortable. Also, the Premier has made it quite clear in his appointments that he is giving more than lipservice to the recognition, not only of the potential of multicultural people, but to the contribution they have already made and have been making for so many decades.

This government recognizes, however, that as individual ministers we must not ever fall into the trap of working in isolation and that multiculturalism applies to the kind of co-operation spread across ministries. For that reason, we as ministers are working very hard to co-ordinate a policy.

You will notice that the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) heads committees on race relations and native affairs. We are also taking a look at the needs of women through the women's directorate. I feel very comfortable that all of these steps are leading us to a position where we can, if necessary, come out with a new policy.

The questions at which we are obviously looking, and which have been alluded to by Mr. Leluk, Mr. Grande and Mrs. Marland, take the form of affirmative action. So many of the things that benefit our multicultural society are the very same things that benefit a cultural society. This ministry has taken the lead in impressing upon our fellow ministries that we have not only the resources within the ministry, but a data base which can help other ministries to deal more effectively with issues relating to representation.

In the programs we call multicultural and which are project-based within our ministry, we are endeavouring to make various peoples feel comfortable knowing there are programs and that they have as much right to moneys as anyone else in the province. We are also encouraging, whether it is three faces of multiculturalism or five faces, the desire and the need of people to govern their own affairs, to make their own decisions and to use the government as a resource.

This is reflected not only in our desire to provide English as a second language, but to take a look at language in the context of the world of work, to take a look at the world of work in the context of skills acquisition and development, to take a look at skills acquisition in terms of power and decision and of allowing multicultural peoples to take their rightful place in society.

Those are some of the things we are currently taking a look at. Before I go on to some of the things we have done in the multicultural area, I want to stress again the fact that policy is a dynamic process. It is grass roots. We have been in power for five months. We feel multicultural policy, before it is changed, deserves more than five months. We are taking our responsibility very seriously in allowing grass-roots people to dialogue with us. We have had many meetings, discussions and debates with most groups across the province. We have also had dialogues with

groups that want to work together in partnership. I guess one could call these groups intercultural groups.

We are taking a look at some ways in which the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship could be better used. I think Mr. Grande's point is right on. If a council or body is not used, if recommendations are not used, then indeed it does not serve the function. When I met with the chairman of that council, as I met with all chairmen and boards of all agencies within the ministry, that kind of dialogue took place. Those kinds of terms of understanding were felt very emotionally in any meeting we have had.

We will move slowly to alter programs so they meet the articulated needs of people in this province. We will change requirements so those who feel more comfortable with an arm's-length relationship in accessing funds and resources can do so. Those who feel they want more nurturing can also do so. This is a different kind of blending.

The Premier is committed to a strong emphasis on community operations. Again, we feel putting the onus and incentive on multicultural groups within their own community will work for the betterment of the community. In talking about our nation's first people, our native community, we realize that when we look at the north there are many regional disparities and much isolation. We are working very closely with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine), not only in a multicultural sense but in a cultural sense. He has asked for that input from this ministry.

We have initiated discussions on immigration with the federal government and the Minister of State for Multiculturalism, Otto Jelinek, and before him, Jack Murta. We believe as a Liberal government we can take on the challenge the federal government has offered over the past years of playing a lead role in policy development on settlement issues for newcomers to this province. We are currently investigating this role. That has never before been done in this province.

We are making a much stronger move in the area of French-language rights. It is a blight on this society to think that in Ontario the Franco-Ontarian people still feel—and perception is, after all, a large percentage of reality—they do not have the most sacred cultural and multicultural right, which is language.

The point on heritage languages is well taken, that people come to this country and province unable to—and we should not force them to—

divorce language from culture, from work, from religion, from whatever.

We recognize increasingly the ugliness of barriers to integration, adaptation and participation, and we are working as hard as we can to make people feel comfortable in talking about that. I guess we can be accused of rhetoric when we say in a statement that this ministry is here to listen, but listening is very important. If the other person realizes he is talking and being listened to, he can finally get out emotions, hopes and dreams and can hold you accountable. You can work it out together. Listening is one—

Mr. Leluk: The question is, is the government listening to what the people are saying?

Hon. Ms. Munro: We are listening.

Mr. Leluk: It is one thing to listen to the people. Is the government listening?

Hon. Ms. Munro: That is true. I am listening.

We know there are needs for various multilingual government services. We think the recent move of the Toronto Star accurately to reflect the strengths of a multicultural community in the mainstream press is very healthy, but should have been done a long time before.

3:10 p.m.

In our meetings with the ethnic press, the multicultural press, it is amazing how many times members of this press will say, "Another wine and cheese party, but where are members of the white press?" It was a real challenge that must go out to the white press. One has to keep reinforcing small multicultural editors and publishers. Although most of the time they are coming out with the positive things about life and multicultural life in this province, it is never reflected in the mainstream. Therefore, I applaud the Toronto Star's efforts to focus on this.

This is not a complete answer to the question, I am touching on some of the questions I wanted to talk about. We have a visible minority cabinet minister. It was not a token appointment. Mr. Curling is a very sensitive, compassionate person. He is making the kind of contribution we know other peoples in this province could. We will be very happy to see the first Chinese cabinet minister join our ranks. We will know he or she will make the kind of contribution Mr. Curling is making.

Again, we have struck committees of ministers to take a look at multicultural policy and action. We welcome the appointment of the Lieutenant Governor of this province. Knowing Mr. Alexander for so many years, I can tell you he is a remarkable man. It is unfortunate that it

took so long to put competent people of his ilk into positions like that.

Mr. Leluk: The previous federal Liberal government would not appoint a member of a visible minority to this position. It took a Conservative government in Ottawa to do that.

Hon. Ms. Munro: On principles coming out of policy we will continue to use the former policy, which states "full access and participation in the social, cultural, political and economic life of the province." We will continue to work within the principles of the former policy and will develop new policies only following full and complete dialogue with the community. We emphasize public dialogue. We emphasize not only the initiative, but our own guidelines for setting up public dialogue.

We feel the previous government, while emphasizing several aspects of life in the province relating to multiculturalism, social, cultural, political and economic, did not pick up on the challenges economically. What we are trying to do—and you will see in the initiatives—is to create a greater impact on leadership, decision-making, management and language and on allowing people the right to be their own person. You will see that for our native peoples the Ontario native economic support program was aimed clearly in those directions.

I have a list, which I will not go into right now, of many of the grants we have given to multicultural groups through other program areas. One of the criticisms that bothers me is that people will say only X percent of the budget is spent on the multicultural side. That is true in terms of project grants or programs that are designed to meet the particular needs of a multicultural community. In fact, our analysis shows that programs throughout the ministry are accessed or used by various peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin or the slant of their eyes. That is one of the points I want to make. I will leave it to some of the agencies to articulate in their own time their commitment to the multicultural reality of this province.

I will wrap up on this one point. If you take a look at all the services we provide in the ministry, you will see clearly that we are focusing more and more on the multicultural reality through our library systems, our museums and our heritage programs. I think the product is there; whether it will become or has to become a change in policy is not our concern right now.

I would like to address briefly—

The Vice-Chairman: Before you proceed, I want to be sure we are in agreement with the

order of things here. I know this is what we agreed would happen, but I notice the time is getting on. I am also aware there are representatives of some of the agency groups here.

I want the committee to decide whether we are going to have time to hear them or to ask questions of them today. If we are going to do that, I would suggest we should start that right now and postpone the remainder of the minister's response. However, I want your thoughts and concurrence on this.

Mrs. Marland: I did not hear the minister answer my question about a cultural policy for this province.

The Vice-Chairman: No, she has not got that far yet.

Mrs. Marland: In fairness, since that is an overall question which must be of tremendous interest to any and all the groups that may be with us this afternoon, I think they would like to hear her answer about our cultural policy in reply to my question this morning.

I can appreciate what you are saying about the time, and it does seem to be a bit encumbered. However, I think it is important to hear the minister's answers. With respect, I would also say I am sure we have further questions on some of her answers. As I understand the process, that is what it is all about, is it not?

The Vice-Chairman: Yes, that is what the estimates process is about.

Mrs. Marland: So we all understand what is going on.

The Vice-Chairman: I thought probably some of you would feel that way. I will be glad to have the feelings of other people.

However, I want to point out that if we are going to do that, I think we should make it clear to the representatives from the different agencies that it is unlikely we would get much of an opportunity to question them or listen to them this afternoon, knowing how questions and things go on. I do not know how the rest of you feel about that, but I did not want them to be kept here under the false pretences that we would be able to deal fully with the questions members may have respecting their group.

Are there any other comments from members of the committee about how we should proceed? Do you want the minister to proceed as she has been and complete her responses to the first part of your questions?

Mr. Leluk: I think the minister stated she wanted to give an answer to one of the questions from each of the three critics.

The Vice-Chairman: Yes, I understand.

Mr. Leluk: She has more or less partly answered my question—

The Vice-Chairman: There is an endorsement.

Mr. Leluk: —but I believe she has not touched on the questions of the two other critics. I do not know that we want to deviate. I understand the members of the various agencies are here.

The Vice-Chairman: That is right.

Mr. Leluk: However, I am sure Mr. Grande would like to hear an answer to his questions or one of his questions, as would Mrs. Marland.

Mr. Grande: For my part, I would be more than happy to get the answers from the questions that deal with my leadoff at the next opportunity. I personally think it is fair for the minister to consult with whomever she has to consult with and get the necessary information so we can have full answers to the questions.

The questions that each of us asked are questions on which one could speak for three hours or more. If the answers were specific in nature and we could deal with them immediately, that would be fine. However, I really do not think those people should be wasting their time. I am sure they are enjoying it, but—

The Vice-Chairman: It is an education in itself, I am sure. The minister has indicated she would like to do the same for both Mrs. Marland and Mr. Grande—one important point from each one—as she has done with Mr. Leluk, regardless of where we go from there. Is it agreeable that she proceed that far anyway? Fine.

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Ms. Munro: What I will do is try to speed up the answers and you will realize then that they cannot possibly be all that comprehensive.

One of the reasons I want to spend so much time talking with the critics and with everyone else here is that your questions are heavy ones and they speak to the real success of this ministry. If you were serious about your questions, which I know you were, then I would like at least to try to answer them. That is maybe why I am waxing on and on.

Mrs. Marland's question related to my own personal feelings regarding the ranking of the cultural budget within the scheme of provincial expenditures in the government. As I said at the outset, my personal feeling on culture is that it is really the building block for a healthy and dynamic government. However, I do not necessarily feel cultural budgets must always be

constrained within the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

I also feel the dynamism that must exist between culture and multicultural is part of how I want to phrase my answer to your question. The two must be looked on as the same side of the coin and be reflected throughout the other ministries. My position is that I am fighting very hard to maintain the level of budgeting within the cultural and multicultural sector.

I am also working hard with other cabinet ministers to impress upon them the necessity for thinking culturally, doing culturally and being culturally. I am very impressed with many of the responses I am getting, but it is a full-time job.

I personally view the money spent on culture as vitally important. Regarding my personal aspirations in terms of where I go next—and I hope I will still be a minister—I want to stay where I am because I think this portfolio is so important. This is assuming I am the right person to be here, and I may not be that right person.

Within the first weeks of my appointment as minister, I presented a request for extra money to the cabinet. I received approval for a proposal which now is almost old hat, but it was very significant at the time. This proposal was to increase the funding provided to the Ontario Arts Council by \$2 million.

You will recall that cabinet was meeting for long and lengthy periods, and ministers were facing issues not only as new cabinet ministers, but in a period we saw as being one of fiscal restraint. That \$2 million was received following debate around the table. I feel that is an example of the kind of commitment we had for culture at a very early stage.

I also initiated a series of discussions with my federal counterpart, Mr. Masse, to discuss a number of bilateral as well as multilateral issues related to the support of cultural activity in Ontario. Many of these matters related to joint funding, which we have all raised today as being one of the issues affecting priority cultural projects within this province.

You are aware of some. I think they are worthy of mention again. The economic and regional development agreement cultural subagreement was signed by this government and was taken as a good policy put forward by the previous government. We are now trying to levy and use all of our political muscle to get the federal government to flow the money through.

For the kinds of projects included in the ERDA agreement, we have demonstrated our commitment as a government to start flowing those

moneys through. We are impressing almost daily on the federal government its commitments to us, not only on ERDA, but on TVOntario, which is a cultural institution. We are very aware of the impact of French services, which again was an agreement signed by the federal government and ourselves, and we are constantly fighting to get that money.

The book publishing industry is an example of our commitment to culture and to putting our thoughts forward at the national level. We have taken a very strong stand on cultural industries in general, and I will get into that when I answer Mr. Grande's question.

I think we have been the lead province because many of the lead cultural industries and contributions are found within this province. Therefore, we have an obligation to be very culturally active. I feel we have made real progress and I look forward to continuing in the future the sort of things we have been doing thus far.

With regard to the cultural industries, I want to reiterate several government policies. We did support Canadian ownership in the book publishing industry in order to safeguard Canadian cultural sovereignty. We have constantly been in touch with the federal government, not only ourselves, but by impressing lobbyists within the province to do the same thing. We believe very strongly that Canadian ownership must be raised above its present level of less than 20 per cent in this vital cultural industry.

I feel as strongly for film as for commercial theatre or any of the other cultural industries.

I have had many dialogues with leaders within the various cultural industries, the first being in December at the same time the free trade issues were going on. Ontario simply cannot wait until other governments or other levels decide on our future. Although many members of the cultural industries were feeding into the decision-making process at the national level, we also told them we felt it was important provincially. We have had many good meetings and intend to continue them.

The creation of the Ontario Film Development Corp. was one signal that we intend to take seriously our responsibility to protect and enhance this important film industry. We believe this action complements the recommendations of the federal task force report, although we must always remember that the task force report is still only a report, and one will never know whether the \$60 million will ever be received to stimulate the industry. We have an actual living, viable

film development corporation that will be using our \$20 million wisely over the next three years.

The Premier has certainly stated his position very clearly on free trade and cultural sovereignty, as I have. Ontario's position is simply no less than that our cultural sovereignty is not negotiable and cannot be separated from political sovereignty.

During the federal-provincial conference in Halifax last September, I took a stand that clearly indicated our position on cultural identity, sovereignty and the ability to stand up and be counted. At that meeting I clearly made the point that Ontario endorses the Investment Canada book publishing policy. We have since reaffirmed Ontario's support for that policy.

With regard to the current case of Gulf and Western (Canada) Ltd. and Prentice-Hall of Canada Ltd., it is my understanding all involved parties are still discussing approaches and options. The critical date of December 15, 1985, has now been put off until January 1986. It is my hope and Ontario's hope that a resolution satisfactory to all can be reached. We are fighting hard in that regard.

In closing, because I will be addressing this later, I would like to say I am firmly committed to my support for cultural activity and to defining that cultural activity at the community level, as well as defining culture as being those values that make our people what they are and who they are.

I will continue to feel very strongly. I will continue not to apologize for being emotional on the topic of culture or multiculturalism. That is as important a characteristic of culture and multiculturalism as any of the cognitive descriptions or any of the economic measures we can take. Because you are all here as critics, I know you will be as emotional as I am on those issues.

3:30 p.m.

We realize in the Liberal government that there has to be more appropriate funding for culture and for multiculturalism. We recognize Ontario underspends almost all other provinces. We know, however, that we have many avenues we want to explore to make sure they are being used appropriately. I am thinking of the tremendous capacity of TVOntario, the use of our larger museums vis-à-vis community museums, the function of Ontario welcome houses in relation to existing services at the municipal level, and on and on.

In closing, my personal feeling about culture is that it is what life is all about and that it is what we will be judged on in history books.

I would now like to make a brief response to Mr. Grande's question on the position of this government on free trade and cultural sovereignty and lead that into the cultural industries, spending a few minutes on book publishing and then embroidering what I have already said on the film industry.

This government does not have to take a back seat to any government or province in our ability to articulate our stand on cultural sovereignty and how that cultural sovereignty relates to issues of free trade. We speak both emotionally and with some very sound arguments. We have a Premier who is open to his ministers, to members, and to the people of this province in wanting to know the pros and cons of free trade as well as the reasons we feel so strongly that cultural sovereignty is important to this province.

I have written and have been asked to write to the Premier on many occasions, giving him my thoughts on cultural sovereignty. I can assure you not only did he ask for my opinion, but he asked for many people's opinions. His statements at the first ministers' November meeting reflected the views of Ontario. In one of the letters I wrote to the Premier concerning cultural sovereignty, I said:

"As both you and I have reiterated on many occasions, culture is fundamental to the quality of life of all citizens. Our cultural identity is a reflection and expression of the values that are shared among members of our society. The diversity of the Canadian heritage is one of the characteristics that has created our special national identity.

"Our national identity is perceived by Canadians at home and abroad and by the international community as the result of our culture, traditions, history, climate and geography. Cultural sovereignty cannot be separated from political sovereignty. Our uniqueness makes Canada a country respected throughout the world."

In response to a question from the member for York South (Mr. Rae) in the House on November 8, the Premier indicated in answer to his inquiry on free trade: "It is my view we should not be bartering away our cultural agencies. That position has been put very forcefully to the federal government. It will be put again at the first ministers' conference taking place in about three weeks."

He went on to say: "I believe we have been strong. Everybody acknowledges we have put forward the most substantive case on behalf of protecting people in Ontario, not only in the

cultural area, an important one, but also in our automotive, agricultural and other areas."

He then went on to answer Mr. Grande's question concerning Gulf and Western. He said: "In response, the member raises a very good question. The issue of the Gulf and Western takeover concerns me greatly. We are very much opposed. We have taken a very strong stand with respect to keeping our book publishing here in Ontario. There are many discussions going on now about our role vis-à-vis the federal role, but we are very keen on keeping that company here in Ontario and others that have the same problems, as the member may be aware.

"I can assure him we are very much at one on that issue, and we are doing everything we can to keep that company in Canadian hands."

In the opening statement to the first ministers' conference, the Premier said: "Nor can we trade away Canada's soul. Cultural sovereignty cannot be separated from political sovereignty. We must maintain our ability to develop and support our own cultural and communications industry. We must maintain our ability to publish books and magazines, produce records and films, create television and radio programs that help us define our hopes and dreams, our way of seeing ourselves in the world."

He concluded by saying: "Our success stories are not the result of luck. They are the results of steps we took to encourage creativity. They are the result of legislation and regulations that support cultural sovereignty. Our cultural sovereignty must be kept off any bargaining table. It is part of the glue that holds this country together."

With respect to actions I have been taking with the federal government, I was in continuing dialogue with Marcel Masse when he was in power as a minister. When he resigned, I then continued my representation with Mr. Bouchard, with Sinclair Stevens and with Mr. Mulroney.

Mr. Grande: And they were not returning your phone calls, I understand.

Mr. Leluk: They returned mine.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I also have been working hand in glove with the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) on Circular 14, if we are talking about book publishing, and with other ministers who have interests in the language area, the development of the north and all those things that give credibility and credence to cultural sovereignty.

One of the things that impresses all of us when we talk about free trade with the United States is that we are not talking about the same kind of lobbyists. In a sense, we try to create our own

lobbyists, who are very good and who represent all parties. The Honourable John Black Aird has been lobbying, and so have Sam Sniderman and Hal Jackman. I could go on and on about various parties. I would like officially to recognize in the House the strong input of these parties, as they have been making such representation to the federal government.

In order to give credibility to our stand on cultural sovereignty in the context of cultural industries, which is indeed a tangible way in which we measure our Canadian identity, we held parallel think tanks on cultural industries during November and will continue them. We continue to joust and to act as Greek dancers with Marcel Masse and Bouchard. Anything they did, we did. We have been an active government in letting our views be known on cultural sovereignty and the economic side of industry.

We intend to set up more meetings with people relating to culture, including not only the performing arts or folk art, but whatever it is that makes this province tick and ends up as a product. We will be having those kinds of meetings.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) worked hand in glove with us to ensure that his federal counterparts were aware of our stand on Canadian ownership in the book publishing area. He co-operated very well with us when we took over the small unit on video and film from Industry, Trade and Technology.

Mr. Wiseman: While the minister is looking for some more notes, in view of the time and the fact that the minister has not got into her preamble on the \$8.1 million, the groups that are here probably will not get on today and it is probably not necessary to keep them here. It is 3:40 p.m. now.

The Vice-Chairman: That is a good point, Mr. Wiseman. I think the committee members would agree there is not much likelihood we will have any significant time left to have a dialogue with the people here.

I was just asking one of the assistant deputy ministers about that very topic. The committee probably should make a decision—maybe now is as good a time as any—as to when we would like to have the minister invite the agency heads back again on January 22, when we will be meeting again.

Mr. Grande: Should we not have another date?

The Vice-Chairman: We should decide whether we want them in the morning or afternoon. I am looking to you three critics.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Grande: Probably it should be in the afternoon. Obviously, we will have questions about what the minister is saying. We are going to have some questions of the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Ruprecht), who is here. My guess is that probably in the afternoon we will be able to get to the cultural agencies. I would even go so far as to say I would be interested in questioning the chairman or whomever from the Royal Ontario Museum. I will direct the other questions I have to the minister.

Mrs. Marland: Although I am sure whoever is here must be enjoying the commentary that has been made this afternoon, my only concern with doing again what we have done today is in fairness to the groups. I do not know about their personal availability of time.

I can see that if we do not start with them on January 22, we may get into the same exercise that happened today. That is the only reservation I would have. Not having been through the process before, I have no feeling for the time it might involve to deal with it.

I know the upper limit of the time. Obviously, it is eight hours. I would not mind having them scheduled to come in on the morning of January 22, as long as I reserve the right, when we get into the answers to some of the questions, if something came out of that, to go back and ask a specific group a question if I needed to do that. Is that a possibility with respect to order?

The Vice-Chairman: If they are still here, yes.

Mrs. Marland: I know, if they are still here. We are not going to be finished on January 22, are we?

The Vice-Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Grande: Yes, we are.

The Vice-Chairman: That is all the time we have.

Mrs. Marland: Do we have to be finished on January 22?

The Vice-Chairman: That is one of the hard-and-fast rules. Unless there is a general agreement to extend the hours, that is what we have been allocated.

Mrs. Marland: Oh, right, that is the eight hours.

The Vice-Chairman: The minister is just reminding me the questions can be answered whether it is in this forum or wherever by the people to whom you would like to direct them.

They may come to our minds here, but the answer does not have to be here.

Mrs. Marland: Do they answer them in writing, so that they are part of this record after it is all over?

Mr. Leluk: There are those of us who would like to ask questions as we get to the ballot items. With two hours remaining in these estimates come 4 p.m., will we have an opportunity to do that?

The Vice-Chairman: It is four hours.

Mr. Leluk: I am sorry, that is right.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I also appreciate the problem. I articulated why I wanted to answer one question from each of you because I thought your presentations were excellent. We will go a long way with this kind of working partnership.

Regarding any of the questions you have submitted, we can work as a group to give you written answers, which we can distribute before the next session. Then you can move into the votes or question the agencies or whatever way you do it.

I felt it was important today to keep the spirit of what I am seeing and feeling and respond in kind to the good feedback you have given me as minister. Mr. Ruprecht is here to answer any of your questions on one of the ways in which we are trying to take a look at policy in the community dialogues. However, I also appreciate that, as much as I feel it is one of the best and most important ministries, we are running out of time.

Mr. Leluk: Would you tell us whether your second minister would be available during the ballot items? My questions are specific to him dealing with some of those. Do you want those questions put to him while he is here today, or do you want to wait until we have the ballot items and then I will ask the questions?

Hon. Ms. Munro: The questions on the public dialogue in which Mr. Ruprecht is involved should be put to me or to him.

Mr. Leluk: I would like to put them to him, since he is a minister within your ministry.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, on that dialogue, but any other questions should come to me, on multiculturalism or the cultural side.

The Vice-Chairman: I think it would be appropriate, either today or at the other time, assuming Mr. Ruprecht would be available in two weeks' time. Do you have plans for then?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I will certainly be here to respond.

The Vice-Chairman: It could be done at either time. The real question we are trying to resolve at the moment is, do we wish to schedule the representatives of the agencies for the morning or the afternoon on January 22? I have an uneasy feeling it should be in the morning so that we do not shortchange them. It is in the hands of the committee, because you will be asking the questions. I will probably be out of the chair by that time and your regular chairman will be back.

Mr. Grande: Whether we get to the cultural industry and to all the items in these estimates is not relevant. With the shortness of time, what is relevant is to ask the policy questions. That is what I am interested in. If I have a question for the Ontario Heritage Foundation or any other agency the ministry is responsible for, I know where it is and I can get the answers. They normally answer very well.

I am interested in the policies. My interest is in talking with the minister and asking her questions. That is why I was suggesting the afternoon might be a good time for the agencies. I am sure that all three of us or all seven of us have questions as a result of issues raised in the minister's leadoff.

Mrs. Marland: If we deal with the agencies in the afternoon, I presume we will have dealt with the items in the morning.

The Vice-Chairman: Not necessarily. We will not have finally completed dealing with the votes until the very end of the estimates.

Mrs. Marland: If I have a question before I can decide on an item, and if I need some information from or have a question for one of those agencies, I need to ask it here.

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Leluk was going to ask to get back to both previous speakers. We have five here today. Mr. Grande mentioned that he wants to ask questions of one.

Mrs. Marland: I have questions for several agencies.

Mr. Wiseman: If there are only a couple of them, let us ask just those two, since we are short of time, and keep the questions for the two ministers and use the time up that way rather than dealing with the five agencies. There are a lot of questions to be asked of the ministers. Perhaps we can narrow it down. Mr. Grande, you said there was only one you wanted to question. I do not know whether any others want to ask anything of the other four.

Mr. Grande: I am interested only in the chairman or director of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Mr. Leluk: I concur with Mr. Wiseman's statement. There is only one agency I deal with as a critic, and that is the advisory council. I do not have any specific questions for it other than the one I posed to the minister today about the two vacancies at the present time. I would be more interested in getting to my questions for the two ministers and dealing with policy items.

Mrs. Marland: I am in a different position because I have more agencies that come under the culture part of the ministry.

The Vice-Chairman: The minister suggests that to satisfy all the different points of view that have been expressed, the representatives from the agencies for whom there will be or could be questions should be here. If it is necessary to request them to be here in the morning of the day, that is the request that will be made. If you would rather reserve the morning for questions that do not specifically involve the agencies, let us say it will be the afternoon, as Mr. Grande has suggested.

3:50 p.m.

Mrs. Marland: The point is that the whole subject matter concerns the interests of the agencies. We are only talking about a difference of half a day for that; so I am sure they would be happy to be here.

The Vice-Chairman: The minister has also rightly pointed out that many of the agencies are arm's-length operations. The information you may want to ask about might not be available from the ministry.

Mrs. Marland: That is right.

The Vice-Chairman: Tell me whether I am expressing a consensus. It sounds to me as if we should ask the representatives to be here at 10 a.m. on January 22 so that if some really good questions come up in the course of the other work, people will be here to be referred to. Is that agreed?

Mrs. Marland: It is not going to happen for another year, so they do not need to be—

Mr. Grande: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. The agencies will be here at 10 a.m. next sitting day?

The Vice-Chairman: Yes, but they will be prepared to be here in the afternoon, too, if we do not finish with them in the morning.

Mr. Grande: In other words, we are not prepared to say we would like A, B and C agency here. We would like to talk to the rest at other times, of course, but not necessarily—

The Vice-Chairman: No, that is not the sense I get from Mrs. Marland. She is saying she has a

good many agencies under her purview and that a question may come up in the course of the work she does on the estimates in the next couple of weeks that will be appropriate and for which she would want them to be here.

Mr. Wiseman: In view of the fact that a lot of us want to get on to policy issues and some do not and would like to talk to the agencies, I can see a lot of time being spent. If we start in the morning, I think there should be a time frame, whether we take an hour with the agencies and leave three hours to get into some of the ballot items—

The Vice-Chairman: No. Maybe I did not express myself clearly. I get the opinion that the policy is what we really want to talk about; so we will tackle that in the morning. However, it was also suggested that questions could very well arise during the course of the policy discussion that might require an answer from the agencies; so we would like them to be present then, too. However, we will start with policy and try to reserve a specific time in the afternoon for the agencies if there are still unanswered questions.

We like to have somebody here to watch us talk. That is the only reason. We are afraid nobody would come to our party.

Mr. Wiseman: Maybe the minister would ask her colleagues to add another hour or two so we could cover it thoroughly.

The Vice-Chairman: Just a minute now. Do not be too radical. Are we agreed on that so everybody knows what we are doing next time?

Mrs. Marland: Since we are all committed to citizenship and culture—those of us who are elected with that responsibility, the people who are appointed with that responsibility and the people who represent the agencies that we hope will benefit from our total responsibility—if it is necessary to extend the time, is that out of order, as long as we do it on that day? We are talking about two weeks hence. I am sure we can all agree within our schedules that if we need to add an hour at the end of the afternoon, we can do so and finish. We are here to be constructive, and I think that is excellent.

The Vice-Chairman: No. When the time expires, the chairman is obliged to ask, "Will the estimates carry?" and that is the end of it. We are stuck with that.

Mrs. Marland: That is a pretty regressive system. If we are here in the interests of—

The Vice-Chairman: What it really means, Mrs. Marland, is that we should cut our—

Mrs. Marland: No. I am sure that if we took another hour, Ms. Munro, in the interests of her

ministry and of the ministry's responsibility, would like to have it as much as anyone involved.

The Vice-Chairman: We are constrained by the rules of the assembly, and that is one of them.

Mrs. Marland: We can go back to the assembly and tell them that in this interest we would like another hour.

The Vice-Chairman: Lots of luck. In the remaining short time the minister would like to give a short preamble to the question about the \$8 million.

Hon. Ms. Munro: When we entered the discussions this morning, Mrs. Marland indicated she would like a clear-cut breakdown of the \$8.1 million that represents the difference between the estimates and the actual budget. I indicated at the time that the movement involved in the \$8.1 million was probably not deleterious, that we were taking forward many of the commitments on programs and that there was no negative reaction to the reduction within a period of fiscal restraint.

I will provide a short one-minute preamble and then turn the list over to my financial adviser. Although I agree it is difficult to say whether \$8 million is or is not significant, and it may in fact be a major amount in absolute terms, the impact on planned ministry programs has been minimal.

In response to identified capital demand, the ministry received a major increase of \$30 million for community capital projects. Responding to the need for restraint and prudent fiscal management, a \$13-million constraint was applied to this capital funding. Given the lateness of the announcement of the capital program, which was the community facilities improvement program in April, and the ministry's commitment to encourage effective planning by clients, the full allocation could not be flowed in 1985-86. We are accepting capital project applications and all eligible projects will be funded.

It is important to note that a number of major new initiatives have been funded by this government, including the additional \$2 million mentioned before for the Ontario Arts Council and the establishment of the Ontario Film Development Corp. Neither of those items seriously damaged any of the planning from which the estimates were derived.

Mr. Wood, would you like to go through item by item, or receive questions if the committee wishes it that way?

Mr. Wood: I cannot add anything more with respect to the general impact of the ebb and flow of the in-year cash flow. As the minister has

indicated, we have been able to undertake a number of new initiatives. In the context of good financial planning, we have been able to respond to the government's overall need for restraint without having an impact on the programs of the ministry. Unless the members have had an opportunity to take a look at this, if there are some specific questions related to the numbers, I would be prepared to try to identify the numbers.

The Vice-Chairman: Thank you. Mrs. Marland and Mr. Leluk next.

Mrs. Marland: With respect to the Ontario Film Development Corp., obviously I am pleased this initiative is being continued and supported. Certainly I am in favour of the Canadian film industry getting help, especially versus the strong United States competition.

Can your ministry give us an indication of the terms of reference of this corporation? My concern again is long-term security for this funding. I do not want to see it as a carrot incentive.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The general terms of reference and the main objectives for establishing the Ontario Film Development Corp. were released at the time the program was announced. What we have done now is to firm them up and come up with viable terms and conditions. This information is now in the final stages. It is likely that it will be approved within the next couple of weeks and that not only will we be paying attention to the board, but the film development corporation itself will be operating in February or early March at the very latest.

The fine-tuning of the information that came out when we spoke at length on developing the film development corporation is just now going through the final approval stage. We will be happy to share it with you when it is ready.

Mrs. Marland: I would appreciate that.

My major question about the information you gave us after lunch is the \$13-million decrease in the lottery capital. I am sensitive to that because the city of Mississauga is certainly going to be looking for funding for its arts centre. Many projects throughout the province depend on the lottery capital.

4 p.m.

If I remember accurately, I did hear the minister say a few minutes ago that applications will be processed and those eligible will be funded.

Mr. Wiseman: That is the money for the domed stadium.

Mrs. Marland: Please do not get me started on the domed stadium when I am the culture critic.

Mr. Wiseman: That is where it is going.

Mrs. Marland: It had better not be.

The Vice-Chairman: All right, gentlemen, I know you are feeling relaxed at the end of the session, but we have to get our questions in Hansard.

Mrs. Marland: Mississauga has alerted the province of its intention to ask for assistance with the arts centre project. In essence, it has applied. However, because the planning is at an early stage with no firm idea yet of the operating costs, it is not a complete or official application.

I am stating this parochially, but I am just stating it as an example. I see that as a very drastic move. If we are going to be looking in Mississauga for joint federal-provincial-municipal funding for that project, a total project cost of approximately \$20 million, with that kind of reduction, would you still consider funding a project such as the centre for the arts in Mississauga which your ministry is familiar with?

Hon. Ms. Munro: We would need to have more information on your requirements and we would share with you some of the terms, conditions and criteria that we expect for funding such community-based institutions. If you meet them and if there are moneys, I am sure we could work together to make that dream come true.

Lottery moneys are flowed through not only to this ministry but also the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. They are also used for other purposes. We are certainly keeping within the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act. We will continue to use those moneys for those kinds of purposes. I suggest you meet with one of our regional consultants or with me directly and we will see what the merits of the case are.

The Vice-Chairman: Does Mr. Leluk have time? I am looking at the clock.

Mr. Leluk: Since we are past the hour, why do we not let Mrs. Marland finish up and I will reserve my questions for the ballot item.

The Vice-Chairman: Okay. You will be first on the ballot item then. We have approximately two more minutes.

Mrs. Marland: With that kind of constraint, why would you decide to have that \$13-million decrease when you must have some feeling for the amounts of dollars that are already requested in application forms? Even if they are not formal, they are informal and you know about them.

Another one in Mississauga is the Meadowvale Theatre. It is an application the province solicited. It solicited a list of desired projects for capital improvement. That is a \$3.3-million project and the province was asked for \$1 million. That is something it knows about. Those are two perfect examples of the kinds of projects the minister is supporting in terms of culture in this province.

What is the answer to both those projects, as an example for the rest of the province, when you take \$13 million out in terms of constraint?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I was trying to indicate that the community facilities improvement program, which accesses lottery funds, was slow getting off the mark. That program will continue next year to the full extent that it was estimated this year. If your project fits those criteria, we will be pleased to work with you.

To go through that \$13 million in the context of the \$8 million one more time, I will turn it over to Mr. Wood, who will answer the question better than I can.

Mr. Wood: It is important to make a differentiation between the allocation the printed estimates reflect and our cash flow requirements. As the minister indicated, the program was announced late in the year. It takes a fair amount of planning on capital facilities to get them up and running. Based upon our projections with respect to projects that have already been in, are already approved or are in the system—in other words, have been received by our regional people and are in consultation between the regional people and the client groups—we know the cash flow requirement can be met, even with the constraint.

We anticipate spending about \$16 million in this fiscal year. This reflects the applications already in and approved where cash is flowing to them, as well as those in process where we expect cash to flow before the end of March.

Mrs. Marland: Could we take this decrease as a long-term direction which ministry policy will take with respect to assistance for capital projects such as art galleries and facilities?

Mr. Wood: The ministry has always taken the position of trying to ensure a stability of funding in terms of the capital program, and that is still our priority and objective.

Mrs. Marland: Okay. You have not really told me where the \$13 million has gone or is going to go.

Mr. Wood: We responded to an overall restraint program to meet government priorities.

From the point of view of good fiscal management, if we were not going to spend this money, we benefited from it in terms of some initiatives that were funded for this ministry. Other ministries would benefit also in terms of the priorities the government would have for them.

Mrs. Marland: I did not understand that lottery funds went into the overall government pool. I thought those funds were for certain categories of funding and projects in this province.

The Vice-Chairman: They are.

Mrs. Marland: If you take out \$13 million, it does not go to health or education; it stays in a certain category, does it not?

Mr. Wood: The constraining factor is the total expenditure across government. That is what they were trying to achieve. This money went back to Management Board and to Treasury for—

Mrs. Marland: Is that legal? If the \$13 million is in lottery funds, is it not specific? Can you take \$13 million out of the lottery funds and put it into some other area of operation, even within the same ministry?

Mr. Wood: It is legal in as much as they are in the expenditure planning in the expenditure levels of government. If the government decides to reduce the expenditure levels, we have to reduce the lottery funding allocation, if that in fact is what we agreed to target.

Mrs. Marland: Therefore, when people buy a lottery ticket and think they are helping community projects across the province, they may in fact be funding the government in some other area.

Mr. Wood: No.

The Vice-Chairman: No. I do not want to get into this especially, because the question was not asked of me. However, the funds are reserved for projects in two ministries: Citizenship and Culture and Tourism and Recreation.

An hon. member: That is the way it used to be, but maybe things have changed now.

The Vice-Chairman: I am speaking as of a year ago when things were in good order. I am not sure what order they are in now.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I think you are overstepping your bounds here.

Mrs. Marland: Let me ask the minister, because I do think it is a very important point. I want to be able to say to my constituents in Mississauga, "Yes, there has been a \$13-million reduction in lottery capital, but that money is not being redirected out of the areas for which it was collected." It is a collection; let us face it. It is a

voluntary collection or donation from the people who buy those tickets.

Hon. Ms. Munro: We can certainly get a statement for you to share with your riding. We will also provide you with a copy of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act. Please feel free to come over and talk to any of my officials. However, regarding your specific request for a more descriptive explanation of that particular item—

Mrs. Marland: As to where the \$13 million has gone.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, we can do that.

Mrs. Marland: Is the \$13-million reduction that is part of your statement today going towards the domed stadium?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I am not prepared to respond to that. I think what we need to do is get you a descriptive statement relating to your question. If you then need more information, we would be glad to get it for you.

The Vice-Chairman: That would really be a better question to ask the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) or the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan).

4:10 p.m.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, it would.

Mrs. Marland: If they are taking the minister's funds and she has the strong priority with respect to her ministry that I feel she has from her comments today, then where are we ranking culture in this province? Are we ranking it after highways and other areas, or up with such government costs as health?

Certainly, it is proven that funds invested in the culture-related areas of responsibility for any level of government, federal, provincial or municipal, in the long term save money in the other budget areas of different governments, such as social services.

If I could have that explanation before January 22, then I might ask further questions. When we get into the part in the estimates dealing with capital expenditure—I think there is a section on capital support and the regional services program—might I then be able to address this further in that section?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Certainly.

Mrs. Marland: Okay. I will look forward to your response prior to January 22.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Grande wanted one minute.

Mr. Grande: It will be no more than that. I only want to make it clear to the minister, and anyone who is going to be gathering information,

what I am interested about on the free trade issue. I will quote from the latest quotation we have on the changing of minds of ministers in Ottawa: "At this particular point in time, we are not taking any specific cultural industry off the table." That was on December 19.

I do not have a quotation after that date. Therefore, I am making an assumption the federal government has decided the cultural industries are going to be on the table in New York, Washington or wherever the trade talks are going to go on.

What I want to know is what Ontario will do with that. What kind of information and data have you collected on the cultural industries to show the federal government it is wrong in doing that?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I think if the federal government puts the cultural industries on the table, you are likely to see Mr. Masse right on top of the cultural industries on that table. I do not know the source of the article. Whether they are put on to be then removed is another question, but I believe the whole issue of protection and the integrity of the cultural industry is still preserved. However, your remark is very serious and we will certainly keep pressing and try to get an answer.

Mr. Grande: I will give you the source. It is the Toronto Star, Thursday, December 19, soon after Mr. Yeutter came to speak to both Prime Minister Mulroney and Mr. Kelleher. This is a quotation from Mr. Kelleher, who said, "At this particular point in time, we are not taking any specific cultural industry off the table." Marcel Masse was in government at that time and he has not been heard from since then.

Hon. Ms. Munro: With all due respect, the watchdog nature of this province and the role of the Premier and other Premiers in ensuring that there is no treading of water on that issue is still very much a priority.

Mr. Grande: I understand, but what I want to know is the kind of work that you as a government—whether it is in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology or this ministry—have done in order to show that these cultural industries should not be on the table. I want that background.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Fine.

The Vice-Chairman: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. We will adjourn until January 22 at 10 a.m.

The committee adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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From the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture:

Wood, D. M., Executive Director, Finance and Administration Division



No. G-13

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government

Estimates, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Wednesday, January 22, 1986

Morning Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, January 22, 1986

The committee met at 10:17 a.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE (continued)

Mr. Chairman: Could I have your attention, please? Mr. Leluk has a question.

Mr. Leluk: Before we get involved with the agencies, can the minister confirm that the other minister in this ministry will be present at 2:30 p.m., as I have been told by his office? I have some questions I want to ask him.

Mr. Haggerty: What other minister are you talking about?

Mr. Leluk: I am talking about the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht).

Hon. Ms. Munro: I do so confirm.

Mr. Leluk: Will we be getting some answers to the questions I left with the minister two weeks ago in my opening remarks? There were some 20 questions, and an additional nine questions I left with the minister as well.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, the responses to the 22 questions will be prepared, and I will be replying to the other questions this afternoon.

Mr. Leluk: Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman: Could we have the permission of the committee to deal with the agencies this morning? If we finish questioning them, we will not require their attendance this afternoon. Is that agreeable to the committee?

Mr. Haggerty: Have any of the cultural institutions appeared before the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions? Some of them may have had the portfolio of their ministry or their department under the scrutiny of the procedural affairs committee.

Mr. Chairman: Maybe we could ask each of the agencies. Have any of you been before the procedural affairs committee in the last year?

Mr. Bonner: TVOntario appeared on the matter of televising the Legislature.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Grande: As I indicated two weeks ago, it is not that I am not interested in knowing what the

other agencies, boards and commissions of this ministry are doing, but I do not have questions of them. I thought I had made that point clear. As far as I am concerned, there is no need for me to ask questions of any of the agencies other than the Royal Ontario Museum.

We can proceed and spend all the time we want, but I remind the members of the committee that we have fewer than four hours. I would be more interested in asking policy questions of the minister than in getting factual information from the agencies. In the past, I have had all the co-operation I asked for in getting information from them.

With that, I leave it. I hope other members of the committee will ask questions of the agencies if they need to, but also be conscious of our time frame.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, as a clarification, I want to ask factual questions about some of the agencies, boards and commissions. I am wondering how you want to handle them. Do you want us to deal with each of them individually, the Ontario Science Centre, the Ontario Arts Council and the others, or do you want to deal with them collectively? I have some general questions, not on policy, but on some of the budgets. What method do you want to employ?

Mr. Chairman: Individually, if we can. Do you have one for the science centre?

Mr. Epp: I would like to know whether there are any legal prosecutions going on in any of the ABCs right now. Do they have any cases before the courts or that deal with legal matters? If so, which ABCs do they pertain to and what is the nature of those prosecutions?

Mr. Chairman: You are using a broad brush, are you not?

Mr. Epp: About three inches wide.

Mr. Chairman: You have heard the question. If there is any agency that has such a problem, would its representatives please take the seats at the end of the table and we will carry on with that discussion?

Mr. Grande: With respect, I do not think we should be dealing with the agencies as a whole group. Each of these agencies—

Mr. Epp: I asked for and I want clarification from the chairman.

Mr. Grande: I understand that, but each of these agencies has a different mandate, different objectives and different reasons for its existence. To do them justice, if you want to do that, you should call them up here one by one. Since it happens to be information you want from the collective agencies for which this ministry is responsible, then it would seem that the ministry would have the information and that it is a proper question to ask the minister.

Mr. Epp: The reason for the question is that when I served on the procedural affairs committee, we used to have some of the ABCs before us and no one asked those questions. Then about a week or a month after we had them before us, all of a sudden we read in the newspapers of an important legal circumstance pending in an area in which we should have asked questions.

I thought I would cover that right away so if there were something, we could get into it now rather than leaving it. I do not want to read about it next week in the papers and not have had the opportunity to ask questions about it. I do not know whether there is anything. I am asking a general question. I am not trying to tar anybody, but I would like to get at it now, rather than wait two or three weeks.

Mr. Grande: I am not making a comment on the substance of the member's questions. He decides how substantive the questions are. I am making a comment on procedure more than anything else. I urge the chairman to have the minister or her staff deal with general questions. If you want to deal with the agencies of this ministry, then we should deal with them in an individual manner as opposed to a collective group.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Chairman, at the outset, you will recognize that this is my first experience in dealing with estimates. I am not apologizing for that; I am explaining it.

First of all, I should like to know which agencies are present.

Mr. Chairman: I presume all of them. Are they all here?

Hon. Ms. Munro: We have the following: Ontario Film Development Corp., Wayne Clarkson, chairman; Ontario Arts Council, Walter Pitman, executive director; CJRT-FM Inc., Cam Finley, president and general manager; Art Gallery of Ontario, Norm Walford, chief of administration, and Margot Bindhardt, vice-president and chairperson, finance committee;

TVOntario, Allan Bonner, whom you have met, manager, Ontario policy relations; Mc-

Michael Canadian Collection, Michael Bell, director, and Cicely Bell, chairperson; Ontario Heritage Foundation, John White, chairman—

Interjection: Mr. White is not here at the moment.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Is he expected to be here? Ontario Science Centre, Dr. James Parr, director general; Royal Botanical Gardens, Allen Paterson, director; Royal Ontario Museum, Eddie Goodman, chairman, and Dr. T. Cuyler Young Jr., director.

Mrs. Marland: Is your plan to invite each agency individually to the table?

Mr. Chairman: I am not sure. We seem to have a log jam, according to Mr. Grande.

Mr. Grande: Let me explain.

Mr. Chairman: You have three hours and 40 minutes to explain.

Mr. Grande: I do not want to take that kind of time, but I have questions to ask. The last day we were here we made a determination. I expressed the need to ask policy questions of certain agencies only. I put on the table agencies I am interested in asking questions of; however, other members wanted all the agencies here. That is where it is at. It was not clear the last day what was going to take place.

As a result, all the agencies are here for whatever reason. Those members who need them will be the ones to decide. To expedite matters, perhaps we could have the people from the Royal Ontario Museum before us. I can begin the questioning.

Mr. Epp: I have no difficulty with that. We should get the show on the road. Let us expedite matters, as Mr. Grande said, and start with the ROM. Mr. Goodman is here, and I am sure he would be more than happy to answer questions on any subject you wish to put to him.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. Goodman: Since the last time I appeared here, Dr. T. Cuyler Young Jr. has been appointed director of the Royal Ontario Museum. By statute that post is the chief executive officer of the institution. He has an opening statement which briefly reviews the year. He is available to make it, or if you want to ask questions, we will not intrude.

Mr. Haggerty: Let us have the opening statement.

Mr. Grande: It is only fair that since he has been appointed director of the museum, he would have an opening statement that he should be allowed to make.

Dr. Young Jr.: Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I joined the museum in September 1963 as an assistant curator and 22 years later, almost to the day, I assumed the duties of chief executive officer of the ROM.

Three weeks after I became director, the museum was confronted with a brief strike by our Service Employees International Union employees and a more protracted, difficult strike by our Ontario Public Service Employees Union staff. The latter confrontation involved considerable divergences of position on both substantive and money issues, and serious problems of communication. Both sides in the dispute were inexperienced—I certainly was; both sides learned much from their mistakes.

Such levels of confrontation are anything but common in cultural institutions—I believe this was only the third such event in Canadian history—and we did not have the experience of either Mr. Iacocca or the United Auto Workers. Both parties were saddened and shocked that the strike lasted more than five weeks. It would have been great to have been back to normal family bickering by Thanksgiving, but events sometimes have a way of running their course.

The museum, just like all institutions in such circumstances, was trapped in its own history. In the end, we managed to find a settlement that was, in the appropriate jargon, win-win. Members of staff, a group in which I include myself, are now anxious to get on with the job and build.

In terms of building, I have specific goals for my five-year term as director. Briefly, these are: (1) to do all I can to ensure the museum is properly funded to the level appropriate for an institution of our size and with our worldwide reputation; (2) to make sure those funds are used responsibly, so the providers, both the government and the private sector, are comfortable with the way their money is spent; and (3) to make sure the museum enhances its reputation as the premier heritage cultural institution in Canada.

There are many things we must do to accomplish these goals. I have time this morning, at your indulgence, to mention only two. First, staff morale must reach the highest level possible, for among other things, high morale means high productivity, which in turn means, with a bit of luck, a 150 per cent on the dollar. The staff of the ROM, in the main, is so good that I do not hesitate to predict those returns on investment.

Second, we must plan ahead. The process has begun. In the last two months, we have developed a third draft of a mission statement

which provides a starting point for our five-year, long-range plan. Our goal is to complete this plan some time in 1986. Such a plan is essential if we are to anticipate and project our human resource needs, and the funds to support them into the near future.

Such a plan and such a mission statement also allow us to measure the quality of any decision we make. It puts us, if you will, in a position to ask the kinds of questions of ourselves which the members of this committee have in mind and gives us a baseline against which we can weigh the quality of the answers we give. To be able to do this is a great gain, both as we develop up-to-date personnel policies and as we plan and execute our financial future.

With the need for long-range planning in mind, Mr. Michael Shoreman recently joined senior management in the museum as controller. Besides assuming supervision, under Mr. Graupner's guidance, of the museum's finances, he is specifically charged with directing us in the development of the structured five-year plan.

Turning now to specific developments and advances of this year at the museum, we have made considerable progress on a variety of fronts: gallery development, the gallery development campaign, attendance, special programs and the like.

Since our last appearance before this committee in November 1984, the museum has opened four galleries to the public in our renovated and expanded facilities: European Musical Instruments, Canadiana, Ontario Prehistory and Caravans and Clipper Ships.

The gallery development program remains the institution's top priority. As a result, in 1988 we will have as much gallery space open to the public as we did just before the renovation project required the closing of the building to the public.

The gallery development campaign, which provides the financial support for new galleries, is now approaching the end of its second year and has reached results in excess of \$8.25 million on its way to the \$12-million target for funds from the private sector. This, together with the matching \$10-million grant from Ontario, is permitting us to plan and construct all our remaining galleries as fast as the availability of skilled staff and the design process itself allow.

In addition to our galleries, the museum has staged a number of temporary exhibitions. The most important of these was "The Precious Legacy, Judaic Treasures from the Czechoslovak State Collections." During its 10-week run,

about 104,000 persons visited the exhibition. This was higher than our projections and considerably in excess of attendance at other recent major exhibitions in the museum. We believe the exhibition attracted members of communities which have not frequented the museum before.

Reference to the Precious Legacy exhibition naturally leads me to comment on the role of the Royal Ontario Museum in the multicultural life of this province and nation. Second to none, perhaps, the ROM is a natural vehicle for multicultural programs and activities. This shows both in our galleries and the cultures they cover, as well as in the many special programs which build on gallery themes and special exhibitions.

Over this last Christmas, for example, the museum was a multicultural clearing-house. I personally often think of the matter this way, as an example of what the museum has done and can continue to do in the future. Only on a visit to the ROM's Islamic galleries can Muslim citizens of the Ontario community, and I would point out that most Muslim citizens are relative newcomers to the Canadian mosaic, discover their fellow Canadians were deeply interested in the culture of their native world long before Canada knew Muslims would be a part of the Canadian world. Only at the ROM in Canada is the Muslim able to confront and study the actual remains of the many long-gone civilizations which provided the immediate background to his own. That is multiculturalism in depth.

Total attendance for the calendar year ended December 31, 1985, for the main building, the Canadiana building and the McLaughlin Planetarium was 961,228. Much of the increase over the previous year, a total of about 74,000 visitors, can be attributed to the fact that more organized adult groups came to the museum, a program developed in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Of course, these are only attendance figures for our facilities in Toronto. Each year on an average, our outreach programs make contact with anywhere between 300,000 and 500,000 people outside Metropolitan Toronto.

Activity in and about the planetarium has been unusually heavy this year. The appearance of Halley's Comet and the programs we have built around that phenomenon have caught the public's imagination. The production of *Thunder Perfect Mind*, done in collaboration with the Toronto Free Theatre, is yet another example of imaginative use of the planetarium facility.

Projected operating revenues for 1985-86 are approximately \$19 million. In round numbers, \$16.75 million comes from Ontario and \$2.25 million or approximately 13 per cent is generated by the museum itself. The latter figure includes revenues from admissions in public programs of approximately \$1.5 million.

10:40 a.m.

Finally, the public of the province continues to support us and to show its enthusiasm for what we are doing by becoming members of the museum. As of December 31, 1985, the museum has 11,163 memberships, representing approximately 15,800 members. This is an increase of more than 5,600 memberships since we reopened in September 1982. Membership continues to grow at an invigorating rate, increasing some seven per cent in the six months ended December 31.

The contributions to the gallery development campaign, usually in relatively small amounts from the museum's membership, is absolutely outstanding. They are a very important part of the success of this campaign.

In the midst of all the activity involving that part of our mandate most easily observed by the public, we continue to provide professional care for over six million artefacts and specimens, do research on those collections, teach at all levels and publish widely both in professional and popular media. In sum, the ROM is a good deal more active and exciting than when I came aboard a score or more years ago.

Mrs. Marland: How does the ROM plan for expansion and renovation in terms of capital expenditure?

Dr. Young Jr.: At the moment, all but one small facet of the physical expansion and renovation program of the museum is complete. We have a certain amount of work left in the entrance and in front of the building, which is financed by capital funds left over from the original fund-raising drive for renovation and expansion.

The present capital fund-raising drive, which we refer to as the gallery development campaign, is creating capital moneys which are being spent exclusively on installing primarily permanent galleries and exhibitions in the building. At the moment, all that money is coming from the private sector campaign supported by a matching grant from the province.

Mrs. Marland: What figures are you talking about?

Dr. Young Jr.: We are talking of a \$12 million public fund campaign, which at the moment is slightly over \$8.25 million on the road to success, and a \$10 million matching grant from the government of Ontario.

Mrs. Marland: That is marvellous. You say it is nearing completion in terms of the current plans of the ROM. In long range planning, does the ROM deal with it on a project-by-project basis? Are funds raised when the need arises, or is a certain amount per year allocated to a revenue building fund?

Mr. Goodman: By the time we have finished our gallery redevelopment in 1991, the generous grants from the province and the moneys we have raised in the two campaigns—we are now on the second—will total about \$80 million. We do not foresee any large amounts being spent until well after the turn of the century.

Our experience has been it cannot be done on an ad hoc basis. If it is a small matter, we have to get it out of an operating fund, a special donation or something of that nature. However, we really feel we are now in pretty good shape until the year 2001, through the help of the government. I want to make it clear it is only the Ontario, and not the federal, government.

However, we have many needs which we do not expect will be met by government grants. Very shortly, we will be announcing a \$25 million endowment campaign, the money from which is to be placed in a series of trusts. The interest will be used to add to and enrich our collections, archaeological expeditions or scientific research. That announcement will come some time this year.

Mrs. Marland: When you talk of lesser amounts from an operating budget on an ad hoc basis, are you talking about something less than 10 per cent of your annual operating budget?

Mr. Goodman: Yes. We could never take 10 per cent out of our operating budget. About three months ago, we struck a committee to examine our needs. With the help of an architect and the staff of the museum, we got a report at the last board meeting. We can do that within the terms of some outstanding donations.

There could not be any capital expenditure other than the money that will be handled through the ongoing campaign, which is nearly over and will be successful. We could not spend any large capital amounts because the budget is too close. The ministry does not have the money to give to us.

Dr. Young Jr.: It is tighter than a tick in July.

Mr. Goodman: That is right. It does not have the money. We have been treated fairly. Do not forget there are a lot of added expenses when a building is expanded. We are fighting to keep our operating budget in balance.

Mrs. Marland: Currently then, the museum is happy with the government grants. You probably would like to ask for a money tree, but is the current situation satisfactory?

Mr. Goodman: The answer to that is yes. When you talk about satisfactory, let me explain. When the museum renovation was planned in 1977 and 1978, there was an estimate of what would be done and what it would cost in 1977 dollars. It was presented and approved by the government.

If that had been carried out, we would now be getting an additional \$7 million a year in grants. We would have added to our curatorial staff, something we have to do. But having regard for the many demands on government, we recognize that is impossible. Therefore, on the basis of the moneys being allocated, we are satisfied.

I say this to the world. We hope this government will continue to enlarge the portion of its revenues that goes to multiculturalism and culture. I am sure the minister and the past minister, who is sitting in front of me, are also in favour of that. However, we also understand the demands upon the Treasury.

Mr. Grande: I would like to congratulate Dr. Young Jr. on his appointment. As well, I want to congratulate the chairman because I think a fine appointment was made. As the chairman knows, I have been following with considerable interest what has been taking place with renovation expansions at the museum since 1977-78.

Mr. Goodman: We are delighted about that, sir. The more interest from the members, the more delighted we are.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. Grande: I am sure you are, sir, and I really mean that. By working together and bringing up matters of concern to members, things can be changed and can function well. We can all get behind the museum, not only to retain the reputation it has, but to continue to improve upon it. Therefore, congratulations. Since your appointment, I have heard nothing but good things; I really have.

I have some questions with regard to things that occurred prior to your appointment. I am sure that in the capacity of director you would have a say in making sure that some of those things do not occur again.

In the last set of estimates I asked several questions. One of the questions dealt with severance pay to employees at the museum, namely, in the administration segment of the staff. I could take a look at Hansard, I have it right here, but there was a commitment from you to provide that information. Up to this point, I do not have it. I will be asking those questions again.

Mr. Goodman: May I answer that?

Mr. Grande: Go ahead, answer that question.

Mr. Goodman: That information was delivered to Susan Fish within a very short time of your asking for it, which was my understanding of the proper way our institution should provide information requested either in the House or during the course of the meeting of the House.

Mr. Grande: It may not be through any fault of yours but the only information I received from Ms. Fish was the minutes of your board meetings. That is the sum total of what I received. I did not receive information with regard to severance pay or settlements that were provided to people who were terminated, fired or laid off.

Mr. Goodman: Mr. Graupner is here and he confirms that he was charged with that responsibility and fulfilled it. You may recall that those things happened before I came and that responsibility was fulfilled.

Mr. Grande: May I for the sake of the record mention some names so Mr. Graupner can turn that information over to the present minister. My hope is that the present minister will provide that information to me.

These are people such as Gordon Bristowe, Alan Laurence, Diane Hyndman, Suzanne Rowicki, Ralph Baker, Archie Foss, Dr. James Cruise, Charles Martyn, Charles Tomsik and Rochelle Klein.

Mr. Goodman: Yes, certainly. I should point out that many of those names were not asked for last time because they have left the museum in between the last meeting and this meeting. I would be prepared to give you the terms of the terminations.

In most cases we have a policy at the museum that the termination should approximate what the law believes people are entitled to. Sometimes we are slightly over that; sometimes we are under it. In most cases we give people what they would get if they went to the courts. Bristowe is one example. That is our general policy; where people have served a particularly long time, we

follow the practice the law is now following of being, within our means, generous to them.

Certainly we will give you the information.

Mr. Grande: All right, that is fine. What I would require though, sir, is aside from the settlements or severance pay or whatever one wants to call it, I would like to find out the length of time those particular individuals were employed at the museum.

I have a tremendous number of concerns about museum process, regarding employees who are laid off or fired. It appears no coincidence that in the past year or two, the numbers have skyrocketed. Last year I mentioned the names of Gordon Bristowe and Alan Laurence. Those were the only two I was aware of. As of today, I am aware of another nine.

Mr. Goodman: Most of them retired of their own volition. You will get the information.

Mr. Grande: I will get the information and we will proceed from there. I hope the information will come as fast as possible. To tell you the truth, I am a little upset, obviously not with you or not with any fault of yours, but with the fault of the past minister who did not provide the information to a member.

Dr. Young was saying that one of the challenges at the museum is improving staff morale. I agree. That has plagued the museum over the years. I want to ask you some questions fundamental to the development of staff morale and the kind of labour relations you have at the museum.

How is it that in the past year there have been two strikes at the museum, something the museum never heard of in its history. I am not mentioning the details, but I have them. In the past year and a half to two years, labour relations at the museum have never been so bad. Why is that? How can you build staff morale when there are such prehistoric labour relations going on in that place?

Mr. Goodman: May I answer that?

Dr. Young Jr.: I would like to say something about it too.

Mr. Goodman: Fine, but when this started you were not responsible, so Henry Graupner and I can take the responsibility. The first strike lasted 48 hours. I had an early morning meeting myself with the chief international representative and settled it. It happened because it became essential in 1984 and 1985 to make very real changes in the security system of the Royal Ontario Museum. We have six million artefacts that require protection, perhaps \$1 billion worth

of assets. Management felt quite properly that the attention being given by the employees to our security system was unsatisfactory.

We brought someone in to make a study and he told us that was the case, but that it was not only the employees' fault, that management had been employed as well over the previous years and had allowed a lot of laxity to grow up in the system, so we changed our system. There was resistance to changing our security system, but we were determined to protect the resources of the people of Ontario and we hung tough in the negotiations. We finally settled it after a 48-hour strike. I think that strike was taken properly by the ROM, and it was not over money.

Mr. Grande: I understand.

11 a.m.

Mr. Goodman: That strike was over how we were going to run the security system, which is a primary responsibility of management. In any event, I met with Ted Roscoe and it was settled. Our security system now is in order. That aspect has been handled properly.

Let us get to the more difficult problem of the strike of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. One thing I take some pride in, and the chairman of the committee made it abundantly clear to me in those days, is that the museum must balance its budget. To balance the budget, we must recognize limitations. We are desperately trying to increase the money we get outside of the government grant, and we have been doing so quite successfully. That is how I spend most of my time.

The government lays down certain guidelines as to the amount of money that can be given when one is primarily paid out of provincial funds. The workers of OPSEU felt they were being underpaid, quite properly in my opinion. The strike was basically over a question of money, whereas the previous one had nothing to do with money.

To some extent, I was between a rock and a hard place. There was a limitation on the money we had and we had guidelines that, while not absolutely compulsory, had to be given some attention. We negotiated what Dr. Young said was a win-win situation. We negotiated something we could live with that gave a substantial increase to the people in OPSEU.

My opinion is they did quite well compared to government employees generally. Another thing was done that is of lasting benefit. We finally came to an agreement—and this was the other important thing besides money that caused the strike—that a special committee would be set up

to examine the adequacy of the various categories of pay.

You cannot know whether you are paying people the proper amount unless you are in a position to know what amounts are being paid in other segments. It is not easy to find that out. There are not a lot of museums around and there are not a lot of the categories under which we employ. We have arranged with the union to have a committee to do that study. We have a considerable amount of money from the settlement put away in a fund, to use when that study is completed.

While it was unfortunate we had to have a five-week strike to reach this point, the settlement was fair and at the same time it forwarded the museum generally. Our position is that we have a great obligation to our employees, but we also have an obligation to the people of Ontario. We had to make that judgement. I believe absolutely that management's position throughout was fair.

I have no objection to the union's position. Sometimes, as part of the collective bargaining process, you have to have a strike to get things settled. It is unfortunate, but it happened. I think we can look forward to the future because they got a fairly good raise compared with raises in the public sector; more than most.

At the same time, we now will be in a position to argue with Management Board. If the study shows they are entitled to more money, we will not object to getting more money. We will go back to Management Board and Mr. Wood will have a lot of trouble with Mr. Shoreman on this matter if the study proves we are right.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Goodman, I am not interested at this time in getting into the details of the negotiations and collective bargaining that went on. We could, but it would take too much time. What I am interested in finding out from you is this. The five-week old strike with OPSEU ended only when the Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour, Victor Pathe, got in touch with you personally. You were out of the province at that time.

Mrs. Marland: May I raise a point of order, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Goodman: I would like to get this straight, because I looked pretty good when this was all over.

Mr. Grande: Are you abandoning your point of order?

Mrs. Marland: No, I am not. I am waiting for the chairman to recognize my point of order.

Mr. Goodman: I am sorry, madam.

Mr. Chairman: What is your complaint, Mrs. Marland?

Mrs. Marland: Is the line of questioning we are now experiencing part of the estimates for this year?

Mr. Grande: Money spent is always part of the estimates.

Mr. Chairman: You have to appreciate that discussions in estimates are fairly wide-ranging, from anything one wants to say to whatever the member wants to say. If he gets too deeply into the negotiations or blaming somebody, I will call him to order. I am going to let him go on for now and listen to what he says. I am not completely sure what his question is. I am going to let the question be put.

Mr. Grande: I did say that I did not want to get into the details of the strikes and the collective bargaining that went on.

Mr. Chairman: Go ahead.

Mr. Epp: We have to give Mr. Goodman credit. I do not think he is going to say anything he does not want to say. I do not think you are going to get any information from him that he does not want to give you, so proceed.

Mr. Goodman: This is a very important matter. It goes to the basis of my role as chairman. I would appreciate it if the committee would hear Mr. Grande so that I can put the facts on the table. Otherwise, I would be delighted to have lunch or breakfast with Mr. Grande and take him through the whole matter.

Mrs. Marland: Can we not have it in writing as a written submission?

Mr. Goodman: Yes, you may.

Mr. Grande: My understanding, Mr. Goodman, is that the bargaining started to take place again after Victor Pathe, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour, was in touch with you and said: "Get on with it. This is going on too long. This has to be settled." The suggestion was put to you that you should bypass management negotiations.

If that is a fact, do you not think something was definitely wrong with your management's negotiations in allowing that dispute to go on for five weeks? Was there an attitudinal problem?

Mr. Goodman: There is no doubt that I had discussions. I want to make it clear that these negotiations were done by management. Management settled most of the outstanding matters during the five weeks.

From before the strike and continuously through the strike, I spoke to Mr. Pathe every second or third day. I said to him, "When the negotiations reach the time when you think they need a little extra push, I will be available to come in and become part of management." However, management conducted those negotiations. I called Mr. Pathe and said: "I am going to be away for a couple of days. Let me know when you want me if you think it is the appropriate time for me to come in."

11:10 a.m.

I then came back to settle one or two outstanding things; negotiations always stick on one or two things. This was not about the money; it was a question of how we would set up a committee for the job assessment. They had not been able to settle that. I came in, met with Mr. Pathe and the conciliator, who was there because we never bypass the conciliator, and Andy Todd and we worked out a deal as to the way the special committee could work that would be satisfactory to the employees.

He was not the whole committee either. He took this back to his committee and did a selling job. I went to management, which was quite prepared to accept the deal I had worked out on this matter with Mr. Todd. They called the meeting and voted on it. I want to assure you that management negotiated 90 per cent of it in the same way as the museum employees' committee did, and then Mr. Todd and I came in and settled the one thing between us that was at odds.

Is that a fair evaluation?

Mr. Chairman: It sounds fair to me.

Mr. Goodman: I would be glad to look up my file and meet with you for lunch or breakfast to give you more information, because I would like you to have it.

Mr. Chairman: Tony will pay.

Mr. Grande: No comment.

Mr. Chairman: Are there other questions?

Mr. Grande: Not on the nonpayment, but no comment.

Mr. Epp: Are there any situations before the courts pertaining to your responsibilities, Mr. Goodman?

Mr. Goodman: Not pertaining to mine, but there is one matter that is before the court.

Mr. Epp: Are you in a position to elaborate on that?

Mr. Goodman: Dr. Young will.

Dr. Young Jr.: You will find on page 45 of this year's annual report to the government and

the public of Ontario, under item 9, the following statement: "The museum has appealed an arbitration board ruling regarding the implementation date of revised salaries for certain positions. In July 1985, the amount in dispute was \$82,396...has been deposited in a trust fund with the museum's solicitors," etc.

What is involved is the appeal by the museum to the courts over an arbitration ruling under the Labour Relations Act of Ontario. We have set aside the money in this trust fund so that if the court rules against our appeal, we are in a position to meet the financial commitments that would be related to that loss of appeal. That case, I believe, comes up on Valentine's Day; it is rather inappropriate, I guess.

Mr. Epp: I hope appropriate from your standpoint. What court is it before?

Mr. Goodman: It is probably the Divisional Court.

Dr. Young Jr.: Yes, the Divisional Court.

Mr. Epp: Is this a unique situation for the museum?

Mr. Goodman: We think it is unique. That is the basis of our solicitor's advice. It is not unique for people to go to court, but we are advised this award was quite improper. Our solicitor may be wrong; sixty per cent of the time lawyers are wrong in these matters.

Mr. Epp: That is quite an opinion from a lawyer.

Dr. Young Jr.: That applies only to certain firms, I am sure.

Mr. Goodman: I was all for Mr. Scott.

Mr. Epp: This is coming up on February 14.

Dr. Young Jr.: It was to have come up in mid-January but there was something on the schedule of the court that postponed it for a month.

Mr. Epp: Why do you feel you have more than a reasonable chance of winning this, based on the lawyer's recommendation?

Mr. Chairman: I wonder whether we should wait for the case for that one. Mr. Goodman might advise.

Mr. Goodman: I will put it this way so it will not affect them: We believe it was in excess of their jurisdiction.

Dr. Young Jr.: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Epp: Fair enough. Thank you.

Mr. Grande: Let me make a comment here, and I make it seriously. I think you have people in the negotiating committee from management

side who have very definite anti-union biases. I sincerely do not think that good labour relations are going to happen or that staff morale is going to improve unless some of those negotiators are put to work on other services. Labour relations cannot continue that way at the museum. I hope something will be done about it.

Dr. Young Jr.: If I may, I will make an observation on that point. It may or may not be true that there are people in management of the Royal Ontario Museum who have anti-labour relations biases. It also may or may not be true that there are members of the staff of the Royal Ontario Museum who have anti-management biases.

Mr. Goodman: Let me also tell Mr. Grande that for a long time when I was a young lawyer, I acted for trade unions, not for management, and I have a very definite sympathy built up from my early legal career for the established union system and collective bargaining. I think Vic Pathe will endorse that statement.

Mr. Grande: May I ask a couple more questions about staff morale? Can any of you explain how staff morale can improve, given the fact that in June 1985, Susan Fraser of programs and public relations was given an \$8,000 raise, from \$50,000 to \$58,000, which is 500 to 600 per cent over and above the three per cent that you started out with in staff negotiations? How can staff morale improve when that fact was known to everybody in the museum, and management began what could be called a witchhunt to find out where the fact came from? Somebody was put on to investigate and find out where this originated.

Dr. Young Jr.: I might answer part of that question and then turn it over to one of my colleagues. The position involved was completely redefined before the increase in salary. That is to say, the person involved, who was head of the programs and public relations department of the museum, was not given an \$8,000 increase in salary simply to continue to do what she had done before. She was given a substantial increase in her area of responsibility by a redefinition of the job. It seems to me the raise was entirely suitable and defensible. I have no qualms about it at all, despite the fact I was not involved in the decision that led to it.

As to the problem of tracing a rumour in the Royal Ontario Museum, I would like to ask our associate director of operations, Henry Graupner, to answer that, because I was not present at that time and was not involved in it. My 22 years' experience in the museum suggests to me it was

an almost impossible task to trace the source of a rumour. Nevertheless—

Mr. Grande: It was not successful.

11:20 a.m.

Mr. Graupner: If I can answer that part of Mr. Grande's question, we were not trying to trace the source of a rumour. We were trying to trace the source of a confidential leak, which is something quite different.

As you will understand, I am sure, the matter of salaries at the Royal Ontario Museum is normally regarded as a confidential matter. When this information about the increase in salary resulting from an increase in scope of responsibility of the head of that department became public knowledge within the museum, it was clear to me and to a number of my colleagues that a leak had occurred somewhere in an area where a person who had access to this information should have kept it confidential.

Our attempt to find out where the leak occurred was to ensure our processes, our mechanisms for handling confidential information could be improved so that information that is confidential would continue to remain confidential.

It is not exactly true to say that we were unsuccessful. We identified two possible sources of the leak and have made arrangements in the meantime so that that sort of situation will be less likely to occur in the future.

Mr. Grande: I have a further question, and I will have something to say to the minister about these matters once we begin to ask him questions regarding policy matters.

As I understand, and I rely very much on the facts I have, at the end of the fiscal year there was some money left in the budget, and some members of management were given \$1,000 bonuses just so that money would be used up. The question is about staff morale. That is what you, Dr. Young and all of us here obviously are concerned with, and it is something that has plagued the museum. How can it occur that people get a \$1,000 bonus at the end of the year because the colour of their eyes is blue, brown or red?

Dr. Young Jr.: Since this happened before my tenure in the directorship, I will ask Mr. Graupner to provide you with the details of the answer to that question, but I would like to comment. The Royal Ontario Museum does not give raises to anybody on the basis of the colour of his eyes.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: We have 10 or 11 agencies here this morning. This dialogue could well take place in writing, in fairness to all these other agencies that are going to be very limited in their time. We now have two hours and 35 minutes left. I do not think it is equitable to the other agencies involved in my area of responsibility of culture for this province.

Mr. Leluk: I would like to follow on what Mrs. Marland has said. Mr. Grande has indicated he has questions dealing with policy matters. I also have six or so questions dealing with policy that I would like to be able to ask the two ministers this afternoon, and we have not got into ballot items yet. Might we get some idea of the scheduling of the remaining time so that we have ample time to get answers to questions already posed and to get these other questions on record?

I do not want to cut Mr. Grande off from asking his questions, but we have other agencies here. How much time are we going to allot to the questioning of these agencies, to ballot items and to the many questions on policy matters?

Mr. Wiseman: Before you make your decision, Mr. Chairman, could we use this morning to finish with the groups here now and this afternoon for individual questions of the minister?

Mr. Chairman: That has already been decided. Mr. Grande indicated he had one question.

Mr. Grande: No, I said two, and that is it; I shall be finished. I have no need to ask any other questions of the other agencies. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, it can be smooth sailing.

Mr. Goodman: There was money in the budget for remuneration based upon merit. We had a meeting of the senior management resources committee of the board and we went over the recommendations on people. There were 30 of them. It was not as though we were giving it just to very senior people. It went way down. The bonuses were modest with regard to the demands we make upon the people in the museum and, as a proper management package, we gave them a small bonus for the amount of work they had been doing.

It is my belief that public servants—and I put them in that class—are not paid a lot of money and that for an extra effort they are entitled to small bonuses.

Mr. Grande: Out of the 30, Mr. Goodman, how many received a bonus?

Mr. Goodman: Thirty people received a bonus.

Mr. Grande: There were 30 people who could qualify for the bonus and 30 people received it.

Mr. Graupner: I should qualify that. First of all, we are only dealing with exempt staff. We are not dealing with any unionized staff, because the remuneration of unionized staff is subject to union agreement.

Second, this was not money left over at the end of the year—I think I am quoting your words, Mr. Grande. This was money in the budget. It was not for senior management; the senior management team were not among the 30 people who got this bonus.

The reason for the bonus was that the museum is moving as a matter of policy to a performance evaluation system as one of the factors to be considered when settling salary increases once a year.

For the exempt staff we instituted an informal addition to the system, but the formal performance evaluation system is a 12-month cycle, so at the end of 1984-85 fiscal year we did not have the results of the performance evaluations as a factor in assessing the salaries of that group of exempt people. We will have that information in the summer of 1986.

Senior management made the decision on the basis of an informal evaluation that a small number of people would be given a bonus at the end of the 1984-85 fiscal year. As I say, there were 30 of these bonuses, they went only to exempt people. Senior management itself—i.e., the people who are called at the museum the director's advisory committee—were not part of that group.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Grande, you have another short question?

Mr. Grande: Yes. It is another question I asked last year to which I have not received any answer, and that information may be within the ministry.

Are there individual cases of people who were hired by the museum and who, either as part of their hiring or not as part of their hiring, were given very substantial loans at a very reduced rate of interest? I asked that question last year and I do not have an answer. My understanding is that one or two of those cases exist.

Dr. Young Jr.: I am not quite clear on the question. This is some kind of advantageous loan that is given on the occasion of the firing of an employee? How did firing get in there?

Mr. Grande: No, I said hiring.

Dr. Young Jr.: I beg your pardon. That question is answered in the written statements that were given to the ministry. We will dig it out of the files and send it to you.

Mr. Grande: Thank you very much.

Mr. Goodman: There have been none in between the time that statement was filed with the minister and today.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other ROM questions? Thank you, gentlemen, for your attendance.

Mrs. Marland, what agency would you like at the table next?

Mrs. Marland: The Ontario Arts Council.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Chairman: The arts council representatives, please. For our record would you identify yourselves?

Mr. Pitman: I am Walter Pitman, executive director, and Ron Evans is our director of policy and planning and practically everything else.

Mrs. Marland: Does Mr. Pitman have anything to say at the outset about your needs?

Mr. Pitman: I can say it has been a very exciting year at the Ontario Arts Council. For the first time in many years we have been able to meet the onslaught of inflation for our clients and provide more resources.

Members of this committee will remember that about two or three years ago there was an attempt to provide sufficient resources to major institutions. We slipped far behind in providing for the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, the Toronto Symphony, the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada and the Shaw Festival, and we were able with a special grant of \$3.1 million to bring that back into line again.

As a result of the \$2 million provided by the government last fall, we were able to meet inflation for a number of smaller agencies, clients and galleries, which included smaller theatre companies and smaller musical organizations, and this has been very reassuring for them.

Second, for the first time in many years we initiated a number of new programs. This has been an exciting experience because that had not happened since about 1978. We have been working very hard to accommodate these new programs during the last few months. I do not want to take time to go into them, but some of them are in the schools.

We have been working with the arts branch of the ministry to see whether we cannot provide better arts support in the secondary schools with a

touring program. We are trying especially to get into northern Ontario and areas outside Metropolitan Toronto. We are trying to provide training to young people who are graduating from conservatories and fine arts departments to enable them to reach out to the community more effectively.

Many of them have not learned anything more than how to stand on a concert stage, and we are trying now to teach young people how to address people in a shopping market, a school, a church basement or whatever other kind of venue.

We have tried to move into editorial support for periodicals. We have a number of excellent periodicals in Ontario, but the amount of money given to the people who write for them has been minimal. We are trying to provide a special \$200,000 for better editorial content in those periodicals.

We have developed a writers' works-in-progress program for what we expect to be fairly young, new writers who are seeking to make their first leap into this world of publishing. We hope to give them some encouragement with a number of grants as a result of this new money.

I could go on, but I am sure there may be some questions that members wish to ask.

Mr. Chairman: An enthusiastic report.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Pitman, at the outset of the estimates I addressed the concern of the Ontario Crafts Council, which I understand comes under your jurisdiction. Is that correct?

Mr. Pitman: It does not come under our jurisdiction.

Mrs. Marland: For funding?

Mr. Pitman: We do not have jurisdiction over any of our clients, but we certainly do provide resources to them.

Mrs. Marland: The allocation of funding.

Mr. Pitman: Yes, that is right.

Mrs. Marland: I address the concern they have, which I share, that at the moment there does not seem to be a very strong direction towards education for the craft industry in this province, and I recognize that as a need.

Mr. Pitman: There is a dual situation here. The ministry itself provides the core funding for the Ontario Crafts Council, as it does for any number of other arts umbrella organizations. We provide project support, and we have raised that quite dramatically during the last number of months because of these new resources. The Ontario Arts Council probably leads every council in Canada, including the Canada Council, in its support of crafts.

There has been a quite extraordinary development in the last two years. You have probably heard of Walter Sunahara, who is our community arts officer working with all the various individual crafts groups that are part of the Ontario Crafts Council. One of his major responsibilities is to go out and work with those people in developing marketing and the skills to price and sell their goods. That is something to which we give a very high priority.

The same officer has also done a great deal of work with the native community. He has been spending weekends and his holidays out in the back country of Ontario visiting groups of native people and trying to bring about this kind of industrial situation.

Mrs. Marland: You had some concerns about capital funding for a telephone system and computers. Have those capital requirements been satisfied?

Mr. Pitman: We have been very pleased with the contribution the ministry has made to allow us to upgrade our own venue. We now have a telephone system and are discussing completion of the computerized system we need. It is quite significant that we are once again ahead of any other arts council, including the Canada Council, with respect to the computerization of our services to our clients.

Mr. Evans is the major figure in this and he might like to say something about that.

Mr. Evans: I do not think so, except to say that the ministry did provide us with funds this year so we could carry out a feasibility study on the computerization of all the arts council operations. We now have the report of that study in hand. It is going to our council next week for its consideration, and we anticipate that we will be asking the ministry's assistance in the next fiscal year to implement it.

Mrs. Marland: The results of the report?

Mr. Evans: That is correct.

Mrs. Marland: So you will be looking for that support at that time. Are there any other additional capital expenditure problems you are experiencing?

Mr. Pitman: You must realize that the Ontario Arts Council is a very small operation, and we do not have major capital requirements. We have been in the same premises for the last 18 or 20 years. We were very fortunate that we were able to negotiate with our landlord to get something like a \$70,000 or \$80,000 grant to renovate the whole space. This was matched by the ministry, which enabled us to have quite good

space, both for storage of our materials and looking after our clients.

Mrs. Marland: Good. Is it true that your council is producing a pro-abortion film?

Mr. Pitman: No. Our council does not produce any films. It might well be that an individual film maker might be juried, or go through a jury situation, requesting a grant to make a film. We do not monitor the content of the film. Our main responsibility is to determine the quality of the individual who is asking for that grant.

Mrs. Marland: So you might give a grant to a film producer?

Mr. Pitman: A film maker, who might subsequently make a film.

Mrs. Marland: You do not have any interest in the subject matter of that film?

Mr. Pitman: It could be pro or con. We do not, in any way, precensor any kind of proposal that any film maker would bring to a jury. It is juried by peers, you realize. The council itself does not make that decision.

Mrs. Marland: Right, but your total income is from the province. Is that right?

Mr. Pitman: Indeed.

Mrs. Marland: For something as controversial as abortion do you think you should have open-ended funding for films to be produced on either side of that subject?

Mr. Pitman: It would be very unattractive for any arts council to be in the job of censoring what any writer wrote or what any painter painted.

Mrs. Marland: But Mr. Pitman, with respect, there is a federal law existing on the subject of abortion. It is not a matter of censorship; it is a matter of complying with a federal statute.

Mr. Pitman: It seems to me that making a film about an issue does not involve breaking a law.

Mrs. Marland: No, but if you were funding a film that was pro something that was in violation of a federal statute, would you not agree that might be a rather marginal activity?

Mr. Pitman: Every activity that we involve ourselves in could be said to be marginal. We have to make those kinds of decisions all the time. We have no idea what writers we fund might want to write or what painters are likely to paint, and we have no responsibility, I suggest to you, to determine what the content of films might be. Once a film is made, it comes under the Film Review Board and under the Criminal Code. In the making of that film, if federal statutes are in

any way opposed or involved, that is not the responsibility of the Ontario Arts Council.

11:40 a.m.

Mrs. Marland: I hope in film making there is an arts council policy whereby there is some direction of subjects in a very global sense. I would be very disappointed if money were given to produce a film that could be interpreted as a violation of a federal statute in the criminal law, and as a result of that, that whole film went to the Film Review Board and was thrown out. That is a terrible waste of public money.

Mr. Pitman: I have to come back to the other point. There are many people who would say this whole business of precensorship of film and video is questionable. We do not precensor anything else. The whole issue that is before the artistic community involves a great deal of pain. The Ontario Arts Council simply cannot act as a censor.

Mr. Leluk: I want to understand what you are saying. Are you saying that when people come looking for a grant from the arts council to make a movie or write a book, you do not precensor? You just look for quality. If someone came to you and said, "We want to make a pornographic film of excellent quality"—which many of them are, from what I hear from the police and what have you—you would not refuse to give him a grant.

Mr. Pitman: First, they do not come and ask us for a grant. They make an application to a program and it goes to a jury, a group of peers, film makers, people who are experts. It might be Norman Jewison who is a member of the panel that would adjudicate that proposal.

Mr. Leluk: They would adjudicate on the question of what? Quality?

Mr. Pitman: On the quality of the proposal.

Mr. Leluk: Not content.

Mr. Pitman: And the quality of the film maker.

Mr. Leluk: Mrs. Marland is talking about the film called *The Right to Choice*. It is a pro-abortion film. The moneys come from this minister to the council.

Would that jury pass public funds to fund a pornographic film if someone came forward and wanted to make such a film and it went to the jury based on quality alone and not on content? Could you give me an answer to that?

Mr. Pitman: They would make a decision on the basis of the quality of the film maker and the quality of the proposal.

Mr. Leluk: You are not answering the question I put to you. I am asking you if they would fund a pornographic film which someone wanted to make based on quality alone and not on content.

Mr. Grande: Relax.

Mr. Leluk: No, I am not getting an answer to my question.

Mr. Grande: You were minister.

Mr. Leluk: Yes, I was. I may be again some day. If the present government continues the way it is going, it will not be any too long.

Mr. Pitman: There has been no change in the policy of the Ontario Arts Council in regard to this at any time, a change of government or whatever. It is not in the mandate of the arts council to carry on a censorship process in relation to moneys provided for making a film.

Mr. Leluk: I take it the answer to my question is that your council would fund someone who came and asked for funds to make a film which might have pornographic content because all it bases its decision on is the quality of that film. That is the answer I am getting.

Mr. Haggerty: As long as they use Kodak film.

Mr. Leluk: I am sorry, Mrs. Marland.

Mrs. Marland: That is all right. I go a little further.

Mr. Grande: You go further than that?

Mrs. Marland: Could you tell me what the council's approximate budget for film making is in an average year?

Mr. Pitman: It is in the area of \$1 million to \$2 million. That goes for video and photography as well as for film making.

Mrs. Marland: Right. It is \$1 million or \$2 million of public funds.

Mr. Pitman: That is right.

Mrs. Marland: And you have no policy as to content.

Mr. Pitman: We do not. We do not request that any film maker who applies to a jury tell us exactly what he is going to do with that film. There is no way you could monitor it in any case. Do not quote me.

Mrs. Marland: Oh, I hope so. No.

First of all, I recognize your last comment, that this policy is not new under the present minister. I did not even think of that aspect. I recognize that what is going on has been going on all along, but this is the first time I have come to know that we might be funding the making of films which,

in the end, are disbanded. That is the point I am getting at.

Your answer is that if a film is made that is in violation of a federal criminal statute, it will not be shown; it will be disbanded. My point is we do not have any right to be using taxpayers' money to produce films which ultimately may not be shown because of their content. How much wiser, Mr. Pitman, to have even a broad global description of subject matter for which public funding can be used in the production of films. It is not a subject of censorship.

Mr. Pitman: I am sure it is.

Mrs. Marland: No.

Mr. Pitman: It is.

Mrs. Marland: I will tell you what it is—

Mr. Grande: What is it?

Mr. Pitman: It has to be.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Grande, I will tell you what it is a subject of.

Mr. Grande: Please explain, because it sounds that way to me.

Mrs. Marland: I am sorry that I have to explain something so elementary to a member of the Legislature. It is simply—

Mr. Grande: You said you were new, so be careful.

Mrs. Marland: It is not a matter of censorship, but of complying with the law. Rather than pursue it any further at this point because of the shortness of time, I have other avenues through which to pursue it and I will so do.

I also suggest, with respect, through you, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Pitman, that the Ontario Arts Council should look very closely at what it is funding with regard to film production, because I may be among the first to lead a challenge to the fact that there is no control or no strings, no bars on the subject matter of films that are produced, from what you have told us this morning.

If you come up with another explanation that might be more satisfactory or might be more reassuring, I would welcome having it from you in writing.

Mr. Pitman: I guess one of the major tenets of our civilization in Canada is freedom of speech.

Mrs. Marland: Absolutely. We also try to be law-abiding citizens and thank goodness in this country we do have federal and provincial laws.

Mr. Pitman: Every film maker who receives a grant, or at least receives an adjudication from the Ontario Arts Council and receives any money from the province, comes under those laws. There are agencies who are responsible for

monitoring those laws, but the arts council is not one of those agencies whose responsibility it is to carry that out.

I might ask Mr. Evans. He was once a film officer in the arts council. Would you like to say anything more about this?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Evans, did you wish to say something?

Mr. Evans: I was awaiting your direction, Mr. Chairman. I do not think I can add anything to what Mr. Pitman has said.

Mr. Haggerty: I want to follow up on the comments raised by my colleagues. I am a bit concerned about the director saying that they do not question the content of any film. When I look at the matter of the pro-abortion film, we have heard enough dialogue in films on television that the subject is well-presented to the public without somebody running to the government asking for a handout. Sometimes I get tired of the government giving handouts.

11:50 a.m.

We are living in an era of terrorism, and you could have somebody who would come in with a film with good content and not question that. The first thing you know, they could be out there undermining our democratic system of government. I am concerned when you say you are not concerned about content. I do not think we should just give them a free hand and say, "Yes, we will give you everything you want."

I question it when you talk about the jury. That may mislead us to understand that this goes before a judge and jury, which it does not. I think you should be a little careful when you use the word "jury." It goes before a panel, that is right, but do not call it a jury, because that refers to the civil courts of this province or of Canada.

One thing you must keep in mind is that you are responsible for taxpayers' money, and I suggest you use it wisely and with the general concurrence of the public.

Mr. Grande: That is another issue, but you can talk about it if you want.

Mr. Pitman: I do not think there is any doubt that we use the resources that are provided to our arts council as wisely and as judiciously as possible. When you really come down to the amount of money that is made available to the arts in our society, it is very minimal. If you take a look at the income of the artists, it is at the very bottom of any list of employment remuneration statistics.

In every way, we use that money as judiciously as we can. I will worry very much if the

Ontario Legislature is suggesting to the Ontario Arts Council, as an arm's length agency, that we make decisions about what any film maker can include as an appropriate subject for a film, as much as I would be concerned if any money we gave to authors was given on the basis of what they wrote or to painters on the basis of what they were prepared to put on canvas. It seems to me you are moving into an area that is fraught with difficulty.

Mr. Haggerty: You should have some knowledge of the content, though. You can question them and ask what type of paintings they are going to do.

Mr. Pitman: Any person who is going to write a book or a film is not going to announce to us, in any case, that he is preparing a book to bring down the Canadian government or to organize an assault on the pornographic laws. That is not the basis on which anyone is going to—

Mr. Haggerty: If you call him a film maker, I just want to bring to your attention that you can go out with video tapes and cameras and you can do your own home film.

Mr. Pitman: That is right.

Mr. Haggerty: They are not going to come running to you and ask, "Can I have a grant to film this, take a shot of this and take a shot of that?" They can do it. Some of them are pretty good amateurs, who are not running to the government looking for a handout. In this instance some of them can do that without coming to the government for a grant.

Mr. Pitman: The pornographic film industry is not involved. We are so far from that whole area. It is an underground industry, which is operating in defiance of federal law.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Grande is next.

Mr. Leluk: I want to say something on that comment just made by him.

Mr. Chairman: I think we better take it in order. They are all on the same comment. Mr. Grande, Mr. Wiseman and Mr. Leluk.

Mr. Grande: I have one question. When was the Ontario Arts Council set up?

Mr. Pitman: In 1963.

Mr. Grande: Between 1963 and April 1985, did the former government question the mandate of the Ontario Arts Council?

Mr. Pitman: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Grande: In other words, we have a former minister of this ministry, from a former

government, and a member of the official opposition, who are here questioning the mandate of the Ontario Arts Council, yet when they were in power they did not question it for more than a decade?

Mrs. Marland: I was not here, Mr. Grande.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, could I ask a question of the minister? I would not want anybody leaving this committee thinking that somehow the mandate of the arts council has changed. Minister, do you agree that the mandate of the Ontario Arts Council is not to censor, but to encourage arts activity in this province?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I agree.

Mr. Leluk: I have a comment to make.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wiseman.

Mr. Wiseman: I wondered if you could settle what my colleagues have been saying. To your knowledge, how many films or books has the censor board stopped after they were published?

Mr. Pitman: Do you mean with our funding?

Mr. Wiseman: With your funding.

Mr. Pitman: None. Books are outside the venue of the Ontario Film Review Board.

Mr. Wiseman: I thought you funded authors.

Mr. Pitman: To my knowledge, we have never had a problem insofar as the law is concerned with what we have funded.

Mr. Wiseman: Did you not fund the one Mr. Leluk and Mrs. Marland were using as an example?

Mr. Pitman: We are into two or three different things now. It is not against the law for someone to produce a film which examines the question of abortion, sexuality or anything. I thought you asked, has the Ontario Film Review Board, or the censor board as it formerly was called, censored any of the films we funded? I certainly know of no example of that.

One thing that may be confusing: the kind of films we support are very small and cheap, in the sense they are not full-scale films shown in major theatres around the city. They are essentially what people call art films.

Mrs. Marland: They are always called art films.

Mr. Pitman: That being the case, when these people make application they tell us what the film is going to be about. Beyond that, the jury knows nothing more about the content.

Mrs. Marland: Is *Right to Choice*, a pro-abortion film, an art film?

Interjection: It is.

Mr. Pitman: It could be.

Mr. Leluk: I want to clarify something Mr. Grande said. It is true that I was a minister in this ministry for seven weeks. During that period, I refused to sign a letter endorsing the film, *The Right to Choice*—I believe that is the right name; Mr. Pitman can correct me if I am wrong—which would have gone throughout this province. As the minister of the day, I was not supportive of the moneys in our ministry being used for that purpose.

I want to say one thing to Mr. Pitman.

Interjection.

Mr. Leluk: Let me finish what I am saying, please.

Mr. Grande: You were—

Mr. Leluk: If you want to get in with this government, why not go and sit on the other side of the House instead of propping them up every time they need propping up?

Interjections.

Mr. Leluk: I want to get back to Mr. Pitman's statement. Mr. Pitman, you said your ministry is far removed from pornography. Earlier you made a statement that the jury bases its decision on the quality, not the content, of the film.

Mr. Pitman: Quality of the film maker. Until the film is made, I cannot see the film.

Mr. Leluk: The film maker, but not the content. It is not impossible for someone who is planning to make a film on pornography to come to the Ontario Arts Council and get funded because the film maker is known in the art or artist's community as a well-known film producer and a man of excellent quality. The question I am asking—

Mr. Grande: On a point of order.

Mr. Leluk: Hold it. There is no point of order. I am making a statement and I have the floor right now.

Mr. Grande: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Leluk: Is it not possible for the Ontario Arts Council to fund a pornographic film?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Leluk, just a second, please. Mr. Grande has a point of order.

Mr. Grande: I urge Mr. Leluk or anybody else who wants to ask questions of the Ontario Arts Council—which is fine, that is what they are here for—to ask questions in terms of the mandate of the arts council. If they disagree with the

mandate of the Ontario Arts Council, I urge him to ask questions of the minister.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Grande, I gave you all the latitude in the world this morning. I think any fair person would agree with that. Please let Mr. Leluk continue.

Mr. Grande: I never asked policy questions of people who have a mandate in other areas.

Mr. Chairman: It is all to do with what you think is right. Carry on, please, Mr. Leluk.

12 noon

Mr. Leluk: I am not going to take up any more time of the committee. I think my question has been answered: a person, as long as he is a quality film maker, can come to the arts council and be funded to make a film on pornography, pro-abortion or what have you, because the content is not something the jury looks at.

Mr. Pitman: It is not something which the jury—

Mr. Leluk: You would supply taxpayers' money to make a film on pornography. That is the answer.

Mr. Pitman: It might be a film against pornography, of course.

Mr. Leluk: Yes, it might be, but on the other hand, it might be something else.

Mr. Chairman: Any other questions of Mr. Pitman?

Mr. Epp: In fairness, I think Mr. Pitman should be given an opportunity to elaborate on this if he wishes, rather than being cut off. If he wants to have that opportunity—

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Epp, I think you missed a little bit of our—

Mr. Epp: I think I got the significant parts. I want to make sure he has a chance to elaborate if he wishes.

Mr. Chairman: Unless Mr. Pitman has a half-minute summation, he feels he had ample opportunity to make his points earlier in the discussion. Is that so?

Mr. Pitman: I am quite prepared to let stand what I have said. At the same time, I would hate this committee to think this issue of film censorship is not something we are very deeply concerned about.

Mr. Leluk: You should talk to Mr. Kwinter and share your concerns.

Mr. Pitman: We hope to encourage and educate people to recognize both the quality of content and the quality of production. Through our education programs, we are doing our best to

make sure there are good films, film-making, books and art, in a sense, for people in this province. It seems to me that is one of the most effective ways of dealing with the perversity of pornography.

Mrs. Marland: As the person who originated this question, it is not the area of your jurisdiction that I am challenging, Mr. Pitman. There is no person living in this province who respects more than I do the responsibility, the mandate, and the success of the work of the Ontario Arts Council. I want that on the record.

What I discovered this morning and which was the purpose of my question is that we are funding film making without any guidelines as to content, even if that content violates a federal criminal statute. That is the only area and the only purpose of my question. When I read Hansard I will understand exactly what the answer was. If I wish to proceed with the question then, I will do so elsewhere because I think there may be a grave concern about public funding being used for film making. I am not dealing with any other area of the arts. My commendations to the Ontario Arts Council for the job it is doing.

Mr. Chairman: What other question does anyone have questions for?

Mrs. Marland: I have some of the McMichael Canadian Collection.

Mr. Chairman: Which others?

Mrs. Marland: The Ontario College of Art. They are not here are they?

Interjection: That is a school.

Mrs. Marland: Which ministry does the Ontario College of Art come under?

Interjection: It comes under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Chairman: Will Mr. and Mrs. Bell from the McMichael Canadian Collection come forward, please? Would you please identify yourselves for Hansard.

Mrs. Bell: I am Cicely Bell, chairman of the board.

Mr. Bell: I am Michael Bell, director and chief executive officer.

Mrs. Marland: What is the McMichael Canadian Collection doing to expand or build its fund-raising base?

Mrs. Bell: We have a number of initiatives. As you perhaps know, we now have a membership component, which is part of the fund-raising effort. We also have just started the chairman's circle, which is directed toward getting more community involvement behind the gallery. I

think Mr. Bell could comment better on the funds we get from sources other than government.

Mr. Bell: I assume it is a question of private sector fund-raising that you are referring to as opposed to revenues from operations.

Mrs. Marland: Yes, it would be primarily.

Mr. Bell: About 18 months ago, I guess, the board of trustees approved a recommendation to staff a development officer position. With that staffing, I believe the first year of that position has gone by with somebody in it, active and working. We have been systematically developing the various approaches and testing them out.

We undertook a study of the fund-raising environment to see if there would be a positive response to the gallery from going to the private sector. We wanted to get a handle on what it was the private sector would be expecting of the gallery, in order to justify its involvement in a direct way in terms of funding.

We also undertook an audience survey to get a handle on the characteristics of our audience, the people who use the gallery and, at the same time, a review of the characteristics of the people who had not used the gallery, in order to get an idea of the directions we might be able to move in, as far as the audience is concerned; to attract them to be more involved in the areas of membership and volunteers, for instance.

In matching 1984-85, the Patterns of Power exhibition, which was the bicentennial exhibition, was the first exhibition the gallery had ever mounted that had a corporate sponsorship and, indeed, the current exhibition, the Kenojuk exhibition, has had corporate sponsorship associated with the TransCanada PipeLines and a number of private individuals, including Pierre Berton.

What we have had to do, from the point of view of the board of trustees, was to work with the senior staff and the board. We retired for a day or so and addressed specifically, upon receipt of the fund-raising study, what had to be done and reviewed those recommendations to try to strike a course of action that would help the support of both the trustees and the staff.

What is necessary in order to complement the trustees' initiatives, of course, is a shopping list that is going to be attractive to the private sector. We are in the process, and have been for the last couple of years, of trying to attract the kind of staff, both on a permanent basis—

Mrs. Marland: So at this point you are developing a program to go out to the private sector but you have not done that yet at all.

Mr. Bell: We are out in the private sector already. The point I am trying to make is that—

Mrs. Marland: Not too aggressively.

Mr. Bell: —we have started. It is a building process. It is something that is going to take not one year but maybe five, 10, 15 or 25 years.

Mrs. Marland: You have hired this development officer, at a certain salary, to key this together. What has the return been up to now? What improvements have you seen in your aggressive fund-raising in the private sector?

Mr. Bell: In absolute terms across the board, the salary has been recovered in absolute dollars, although I am not sure how to put dollars against the contacts that have been made, the goodwill that has been generated, and all those things. It is a cultivation process.

Mrs. Marland: Right. I recognize that, but I also recognize that any institution that has a building that needs to be illuminated, heated and so forth does not exist without money. It cannot exist on goodwill. Therefore, is the fund-raising successful? What have you raised in the private sector since you hired that person that you did not raise annually before in the private sector?

Mr. Bell: Virtually everything.

Mrs. Marland: You had not been to the private sector before?

12:10 p.m.

Mr. Bell: May I go back historically a shade? Until the 1981-82 fiscal year, the gallery was funded entirely from an allocation from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. In 1982-83, the gallery implemented an admission charge, and through the process of admission and an embryonic membership approach, it developed an operations income.

At the same time, the board began seriously to address the concerns of private sector funding.

Mrs. Marland: How much have you raised from the private sector?

Mr. Bell: We made about \$80,000.

Mrs. Marland: You made \$80,000. Okay. What is the admission charge? Are you continuing the admission charge?

Mr. Bell: Indeed.

Mrs. Marland: What is it?

Mr. Bell: It is \$2.50 to you, but I think we sent you a pass.

Mrs. Marland: I did not ask you what the admission charge was to me.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wiseman has a supplementary.

Mr. Wiseman: I wondered whether Mrs. Marland was getting to that. I have been told by people in the area that since we refurbished the McMichael gallery, the attendance had dropped off. Is that true? How badly has it dropped off?

Mr. Bell: The base that was used to make that comparison is an unauditable one.

Mrs. Marland: There is an attendance of 116,000 here. What year was that?

Mr. Bell: That was for the 1984-85 year. That is when that material would have been generated.

Mr. Wiseman: What was it prior to that? What was it before all the renovations were done?

Mr. Bell: According to the figures bandied around, it is upwards of 220,000 to 250,000, but I wish to make this point publicly today because it comes up periodically.

Before the renovations, the major public washrooms were outside the building. When people left the building to go to the washroom, and then came back into the building, they were counted twice, which is a very handy way of generating attendance.

Mrs. Marland: Okay, so you raised \$80,000 in private-sector funding. Do you have promises of that increasing or will it be the same amount this coming year? Do you know where you are with it?

Mr. Bell: In the first couple of years we have established a goal of approximately \$150,000 a year.

Mrs. Marland: Are you going to meet that?

Mr. Bell: Yes, if one major project comes through, I think we will.

Mrs. Marland: Is it a major company, when you say a major project?

Mr. Bell: It is support for a conservation lab.

Mrs. Marland: How many memberships have you sold?

Mr. Bell: About 400.

Mrs. Marland: What do they cost? Is that elective?

Mr. Bell: It is \$50 for a family, \$35 for an individual and there is a student figure in there as well. I can supply all this information for you. I will drop it all into a folder for you.

Mrs. Marland: I would like that. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other questions of the McMichael gallery? Thank you very much.

What other agencies do members of the committee have questions for? If none, we will adjourn until two o'clock. It will not be necessary for the agencies to return. Thank you very much for your attendance.

The committee recessed at 12:15 p.m.

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No. G-14

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government

Estimates, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Wednesday, January 22, 1986

Afternoon Sitting



Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, January 22, 1986

The committee met at 2:12 p.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE (continued)

Mr. Chairman: The minister has answers to some questions asked at the last session. If we could hear those within 15 minutes, it would be appreciated by all.

Mrs. Marland: Do not feel pressured.

Hon. Ms. Munro: During our initial sessions, several colleagues raised a number of questions related to the policies and functions of the ministry. I am very pleased at the interest shown by the members in the ministry's work and the priority they place on the cultural and multicultural developments in Ontario.

I answered a number of queries at our session a few weeks ago and intend to deal now with more of the issues raised at that time. First, I wish to provide Mr. Leluk with responses to his 22 written questions. I would like also to focus on a number of the more specific questions put forward.

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Chairman, can these be tabled so they will show in the record, rather than just being handed to me?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I would be pleased to do that. That is an excellent idea.

Mrs. Marland: Were the questions on the record?

Mr. Leluk: The answers were not, and this is what I want.

Mrs. Marland: I want to confirm the questions are on the record, too.

Mr. Leluk: They are, yes. The more than 20 questions which flowed from the statement I made were given to the minister. I have just asked that she table the answers so they show on the record.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I would like to focus on a number of the more specific questions put forth because they carry a common theme, a theme that goes to the heart of what this government is all about.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak to your questions and explain our philoso-

phy. Since we discussed multicultural policy at the last session, I stressed that policy as a dynamic process, fluid and responsive yet solid and anticipatory. We in this government are moving carefully and consulting broadly rather than forcing change merely for the sake of change.

I want to reinforce one point. We are clearly different from the previous government and are perceived as such by the people of Ontario. Our various actions to date have given clear signals in this regard.

The anticipation of positive change in the future is clearly based on our track record while in the opposition and now in government. Our commitment to necessary policy change is solid. Our commitment to public dialogue and participation in the effecting of such is obvious.

The commitment of the Premier to increase the representation of multicultural peoples on agencies, boards and commissions, along with the tabling by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) of materials describing, in terms of reference, the function of such appointments is an example of such commitment. The designation of active interministerial committees dealing with policy areas related to multicultural policy similarly signals such commitment and recognition.

Interministerial committees on race relations and native and Franco-Ontarian affairs are in place. Similarly, relations between ministries are proactive. For example, my colleague, the hon. Mr. Curling, and myself are looking at the relationship between low-cost housing and discrimination and between affordable housing and language acquisition and employment of newcomers.

A successful seminar was held in the fall of 1985 on health care and the multicultural community with representation by the Ministry of Health, Ryerson Institute and our ministry. We have planned a co-operative education forum through the Hon. Mr. Conway, the Minister of Education, to address the topic of multiculturalism and education. This forum is open, will be using resources from the community and will be focused on trustees and the teaching people.

In the area of labour, we are quite solidly on record as moving in the area of affirmative action and equity, which reflects the Premier's ongoing

pre-election statements and his statements as both Leader of the Opposition and Premier.

During meetings with boards and agencies, questions have been asked relating to the inclusion of multicultural philosophy within programs. I think the opening statement today of the Royal Ontario Museum bears out this commitment.

Our insistence on a two-way flow between citizenship, multicultural and culture is an area of emphasis by this government. Open dialogue and participation are in place both formally and informally. In this exchange, we ask questions which impact on policy change. We are also evaluating whether in areas of change the appropriate response is, rather than policy, one of procedures, budget management, delivery or funding criteria. All this current evaluation is done within the context of people, community and self-reliance and with recognition of changing demographics. The implementation of programs and services and allocation of grants has reflected the will of this government. Therefore, these actions are measurable products.

Existing cultural policies in Ontario have been tremendously successful in strengthening our cultural fabric, and we want to ensure these programs continue to meet the changing needs of Ontario. I am consulting widely with our client groups, my agencies, and all sectors of the cultural community. This kind of dialogue stimulates creative and forward thinking and is a necessary and vital part of provincial policy development.

Ontario's cultural development to some extent is driven by the needs and desires of individual communities which have evolved at varying paces over time. Geographical location, public demand and community size are only a few of the special needs to be considered in creating a thriving cultural life in a province as diverse and demanding as Ontario.

I, for one, would not want to dictate to any community within municipal boundaries or any particular special sector of the arts world what its activities should be. The freedom of communities to develop in their own special way is one feature of our society I believe we all value dearly.

I would like to see a cultural framework for Ontario that is future oriented. We are building today the cultural environment we want to see in place for our children and our children's children, an environment that facilitates creative, stable, artistic development, offers equal access

to all and allows everyone opportunities for active participation.

To this end, I have begun to look at ways in which we can plan carefully for the future in terms of the physical infrastructure, financial needs, resources and the program plans. Again, extensive public dialogue is a key component of our assessment.

To answer the question posed by Mr. Grande on the report of the film industry task force, Ontario applauds the recommendations concerning capital infusion into the production of feature films for production companies and specific projects. The Ontario Film Development Corp. is developing and will soon announce programs to address both areas of production.

This province recognizes the importance of a healthy Canadian film distribution sector within the Canadian industry. The Ontario Film Development Corp., like Telefilm Canada, will be requiring that all film projects assisted by the corporation be distributed in Canada by a Canadian distribution company.

During our last session I was asked about my stance on payment for public use. This issue has been extensively discussed by my provincial colleagues and the federal Minister of Communications. Last September, the Honourable Mr. Masse announced the federal government would establish and fund a national payment for public use program in co-operation with the cultural community. I am fully supportive of the national program. The writers' community has also strongly endorsed the national program. The program also complements provincial initiatives that already support writers, such as the book publishing loan guarantee and interest subsidy program, the Ontario Arts Council grants to writers and block grants to publishers.

If we turn now to TVOntario and the question posed by Mrs. Marland about extension of services, I can again reinforce that the actions of my ministry are dealing with the present, but with a clear eye to the future.

Current and approved plans and funding are in place to complete the following network extension projects: Belleville, Kingston, Peterborough, Kenora, Tobermory, Parry Sound, Cloyne and McArthur Mills. These transmitters will be operational over the next 18 months.

At that point, 96 per cent of the people of Ontario will have access to TVO without cable. The remaining four per cent is the hardest to reach. The geography and topography of our province pose a daunting challenge to us and only small gains in the total percentage of availability

are made with each new transmitter, but we are committed to persevering and extending service as resources become available.

The same is true of our library services. Ontario already enjoys one of the finest library networks in the world, and preserving and improving this network is one of the missions of my ministry. I recently had the pleasure to announce an increase in library grants of 5.6 per cent. This increase will ensure that library funding keeps up with the increased cost of materials and that important library programs continue.

Mrs. Marland had asked if this increase was at the expense of other existing programs. I am happy to respond that it is not. It is an increase to the ministry's allocation in line with other municipal transfer payments.

The early announcement of this funding is in keeping and in response to the needs of the library community to assist them with planning of budgets; it allows them to operate in a more stable financial atmosphere. I would like to see this early announcement serve as a precedent, so we can continue to assist libraries with their endeavours to serve their communities.

I would also like to address Mr. Grande's observation regarding support for libraries. Historically, the province and the community have been partners in funding libraries. Each community assesses its needs and guides its own development. The province has kept up its side of the funding bargain throughout the years and has enhanced library service with a variety of initiatives, many of them quite new, that serve to balance the discrepancies between those who live in urban versus rural communities or in the north.

For example, in northern Ontario, the per household grant is 10 per cent more than for libraries in southern Ontario. We have instituted the northern library automation program to assist northern libraries in automation, sharing of collections and streamlining administration and issued a grant of \$100,000 to northern Ontario library service boards for enhancement of their book collections.

To assist smaller communities, the ministry has hired a consultant who deals exclusively with their particular problems and needs. We have created the Librarian's Handbook, a publication on basic library skills, for small communities and developed a program to assist small libraries in the application and use of new technologies.

We have programs in place to assist native communities and to increase French-language collections. The latter is a grant of \$1 per capita

for French-speaking persons in designated bilingual areas.

In short, Mr. Grande, we are committed to improving library services in the north and redressing as much as possible the imbalance of service that may exist across this province.

Speaking of the north, I was asked several questions last time about the future of Science North. The board of directors will be appointed, since the act tabled in December has now been approved. The board will consist of 15 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Local consultation will take place to ensure adequate representation from the Sudbury area.

The question of auditing by the Provincial Auditor versus an external auditor has been addressed through an amendment to the legislation, which provides for one or more auditors to audit the centre annually. I would like to thank all parties for bringing this matter to my attention. I appreciate that, and I can assure you it was well received in Sudbury.

I would now like to take some time to respond to your questions relating to the in-year constraint of \$13 million on the ministry's capital funding program and to the treatment of lottery funds.

As members may be aware, the provincial lotteries, Wintario and Lottario, are of particular interest to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. Expenditures from these lotteries are governed by the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, specifically section 9 of that act, which stipulates that profits from these games will be used for culture and recreation initiatives.

As I indicated at the last estimates meeting, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture announced a new capital program in April 1985 and received a 1985-86 allocation of some \$30 million for this from the lottery fund. Because this is a new program just developing, we want to ensure effective planning and preparation, not only on our part but also on the part of our clients. As a result, it became apparent the entire \$30 million planned for this program in 1985-86 could not be flowed in this fiscal year. Thus, we were able to accommodate a \$13 million reduction in this year's cash flow without jeopardizing our programs.

Lottery funds that are unallocated or are allocated in any one year but not spent for any reason, remain in the consolidated revenue fund to be used for the designated purposes under section 9 of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act. A copy of the act, along with my written

response, is now being provided to Mrs. Marland.

As to your specific questions on the Meadowvale theatre project and the proposed Mississauga arts centre, I am able to tell you our field officers were in touch with the clients early in January.

The ministry has received an application for a community facilities improvement program grant of \$1.1 million for the Meadowvale project. More information about the proposed facility has been requested and we are continuing to assist city staff to complete the application.

To date, no formal application has been received for the Mississauga arts centre. My staff have discussed the project with city staff, but the city has not indicated when an application will be submitted. I understand neither project is planned to commence until 1987.

At our last session, we had a thorough discussion of the citizenship and multiculturalism side of my ministry. A few questions remained, however.

I am pleased and gratified, Mr. Leluk, that your question relating to services for immigrant women indicates you share my interest in this important subject.

In 1985-86, the ministry has allocated \$500,000 for project grants related to English-in-the-work-place projects. These projects encompass a wide variety of activities designed to improve communication among workers and employers within a multicultural framework.

The primary benefactors of these projects are women—over 70 per cent. These are women who may not have had the time or opportunities to learn or improve their English. Therefore, they may have been restricted in their career development or earning potential.

The program is especially useful because it is in the work place and available to women who, because of their jobs and family responsibilities, may not be able to take advantage of other English-as-a-second-language training available in their communities. In the largest program, provided by the Humber College Centre for Labour Studies, 80 per cent of the participants are women.

This initiative is supplemented by other ministry programs already in place that can be specially accessed by immigrant women. These include regular ESL classes, including those at our main Welcome House, which provides day care facilities, the unique telephone tutoring course, Help a Friend Learn English, in Spanish that is being expanded, project grants to multi-

cultural organizations for counselling, and other programs designed to meet the needs of these women.

This brings us to the question concerning the types of funding of multicultural groups. I think it is key in our discussions to ensure we are all working from the same definitions of terms and therefore would like to take a moment to review funding of programs in the multicultural area.

There are many ways in which the ministry assists our multicultural communities. We provide consultation, resource materials and financial assistance for essentially three types of activities. Project funding is available to help community groups mount events or projects which will meet specific needs within a defined period. These are generally short term and the financial assistance provided is for the duration of the project and limited to single initiatives.

Program funding is available to help communities achieve longer-term objectives through specific programs. There are needs, such as the need for language acquisition, which one can assume to be ongoing. Therefore, the ministry provides regular, ongoing funding for programs which extend beyond a single year; for example, the newcomer language orientation classes offered through settlement houses or other community organizations.

The third category is operating funding which is designed to ensure certain services are provided to the community. Multicultural services program grants provide operating funds to organizations that have a proven track record in the delivery of services in settlement, intergroup relations and newcomer integration.

As a government and as a ministry committed to serving the multicultural community, we must be both flexible and responsive: flexible to make available varied forms of assistance from which a community might select to meet the needs of its members; responsive to ensure the types of assistance we make available are accessible and open to review and revision as required.

2:30 p.m.

Should a clear pattern of unmet needs emerge in the course of our multicultural dialogues with local communities, we would, of course, take another look at current funding arrangements. At the same time, I stress that we are but one participant in the provision of programs and services to the multicultural community. We intend to work more closely with municipalities and the voluntary sector to foster local commitment to serving our multicultural population.

Mr. Chairman, I trust I have provided the information my colleagues requested. I welcome any further inquiries and thank you for allowing me the chance to respond to some of the concerns within 15 minutes.

Mrs. Marland: The reason for the \$13-million reduction, which is approximately a one-third reduction from the original \$45-million estimate, was that you said it could not be flowed through this year. Is that your wording? I am looking for it in the handout you just gave me. Your wording was that it "could not be flowed through in this fiscal year."

What is the problem with that? So many groups applying for programs are eligible under this lottery funding. When the funds are there and budgeted for, the reason that the funding could not be flowed through does not describe the problem to me.

Hon. Ms. Munro: In essence, we are committed to the program announced through the community fisheries involvement program area which uses lottery dollars. The problem seems to be one of getting sufficient information to communities so they can feel comfortable in making applications.

For us, the application is a very significant point in the process. It is not simply filling in a form. It means a lot of consultation, a lot of articulation of terms of reference, a lot of dialogue with communities and a lot of justification of funds and support. We simply did not receive the kind of response this year that we anticipate for next year. We are totally committed to the program. We expect to offer the same kind of dollar and resource commitment next year. That was what I was trying to get across last week.

Mrs. Marland: You are saying that the mechanics of the application filing and processing causes the problems.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes. We could ask people to speed up the process, but communities are usually working on a voluntary basis. We send forms back to get additional information, such as forecasts of revenues or funding, which they often find difficult to provide. We place a lot of emphasis on accountability of the groups.

We have printouts of the amount of time it would take a grant application to go through without any blocking on our part.

Mrs. Marland: What is the average?

Hon. Ms. Munro: It would normally take two to three months. Since that program did not start until part-way through the calendar year, you can

see that the money simply was not handed out to approved applications.

Mr. Davies: It is the first year of this program. Quite often in the first year, the startup times are longer.

Mrs. Marland: You are saying it takes an average of three months from beginning to end.

I can give you an example. The Pan-Hellenic community of Mississauga is in the process of an application for funding for its first combined church and community centre. I had a meeting in my office in June with one member of the staff and the Pan-Hellenic people. As always with a volunteer group, as you just described, they never have all the information together at one time. I recognize the difficulties for the staff in that respect, but the information has been forwarded, as I understand it, and seven months later, that application is no further ahead in nearing approval than it was in June.

I have to wonder how any community group, once it gets all its information in an application for any of these programs, gets approval. Do you have staff available to sit down, not within two or three weeks but within a shorter period, and say: "All right. It is not complete. We still need something more"? I do not see how it can take three months, as long as the identification of what information is still needed is pointed out to the groups and they get right back with it.

Can you see a way of expediting that? It seems a shame that we have given back \$13 million, when there was a need in the community and the dollars were in the budget. I recognize it is a new program this year, but the allocation was made for that investment in those kinds of very worthy, much-needed programs, and we are giving it back to the Treasury.

Hon. Ms. Munro: You make a good point. There are examples of applications that go through in a much shorter time than that average figure. With a new program, if I could put myself in that position, certain information is misconstrued.

Mrs. Marland: As to eligibility, you mean?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, and that is on the client's part. Usually, the regional offices handle the processing of the application. It is an effort for them to impress upon the community groups the importance of certain information which the groups sometimes find difficult to get, I expect because of lack of time. It is a brand-new program and it is asking for different kinds of information than have been asked for in other kinds of grants. It is an exciting new program.

Your point is extremely well taken. With our experience now in handling the program, I expect that we may be able to give better information. Often information is given verbally. When we find we have done that, for example, 100 times—and maybe we do not have to wait that long; we are pretty swift sometimes—we usually write it in a document or a pamphlet to hand out. We make that part of the first sheaf of materials given to the client. We do examine it to see whether there is any way we can make the information more readily available.

Mrs. Marland: A lot of these groups are multicultural groups, so the whole application process is very difficult for them. There is the language aspect. It is not easy for them to understand printout material from the ministry. I can understand where the difficulties arise.

Do you have enough staff now who are experienced with the program, since it has been identified as new, so when our groups around the province, and my groups from the people I represent, have that opportunity to be clearly eligible, the whole application process can be expedited? Do you feel you have enough staff working in that area?

Hon. Ms. Munro: We could always do with more staff. If you are lobbying me to get more staff, I appreciate it.

Our evaluation of the way the regional offices are operating is that they are handling the work load. With a new program, it often takes a while before anyone even gets beyond the inquiry stage. We have to make people feel comfortable by saying: "Yes. Your idea is viable and valuable. It makes sense. Why don't you come in and we will help you fill out the forms?"

The regional offices usually have access to volunteer multicultural counsellors or they ask a translator to come along. Sometimes the staff members have facility in the language themselves. We take a look at the kinds of materials we are handing out in the very first instance when a community feels it wants to make application and we work it right along to see if there ways in which the ministry can tighten up the process.

Mrs. Marland: Is your ministry getting \$30 million this coming year, or are you going back to your \$45 million?

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Davies: We are in the midst of the allocations process, government-wide. We have put in a request to the Treasurer and to the Management Board of Cabinet to get the amount

of money needed to ensure that this program runs on a fully operational basis.

Mrs. Marland: What does that say? Are you going back to \$45 million?

Mr. Davies: The exact number is not tied to what we asked for last year. It is what is needed to service all the applications now under way.

Mr. Chairman: Just so we do not spend too much time on one project and at the risk of telling the minister something I should not, the problem is that they put in a new program and accept applications for a given length of time. Until they have all those applications, they cannot decide which ones they are going to approve. Then when they do approve them, they go back to the community. Is that not right?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Not in this one.

Mr. Chairman: I asked Bryan Davies.

Mr. Davies: In some cases, the reaction—

Mr. Chairman: In some cases, they go back to the community. At that point, the community starts to raise its money, which would be the case with your people.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: That means there is an approval and the funds—I have known cases where the funds did not flow for three years. It is very difficult to fund projects that you know are ready to go that day. If that were the criterion, they could spend their money very easily.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: However, they get approvals out there that are two to three years hence.

Mr. Leluk: I see the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Ruprecht) has now arrived. I have some questions for him. I want to say, however, although the minister provided answers to my 20-odd questions, there were six others I put on the paper at the last meeting and I did not hear answers from the minister to at least two of these.

First, I asked her at the last meeting to enlighten us as to why there were two vacant positions on the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship and why these positions have not been filled since they were vacated. The positions I referred to specifically were those of a staff researcher and a secretary. I do not believe the minister has answered that question.

My second question had to do with the transferring of the native community worker program to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. If you did answer that, I stand to be corrected. I did not hear it. I asked whether the

Ministry of Community and Social Services has agreed to fund the program when it is transferred. The minister might be able to provide me with answers before the end of our time here this afternoon.

Mr. Chairman: Can we get those answers for you now?

Mr. Leluk: If she has them.

Hon. Ms. Munro: My apologies—

Mr. Leluk: If you have answered them, I am sorry. I did not hear them.

Hon. Ms. Munro: No, I have them here to give to you. The Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship will recruit a researcher in the near future. It was determined in consultation with the president that one secretarial position was adequate to serve his immediate needs. Additional staff support will be addressed when required.

On the transfer of the community—

Mr. Leluk: Wait a minute. Did you say something about a staff researcher? You said one secretary would be adequate.

Hon. Ms. Munro: We will recruit a researcher in the near future.

Mr. Leluk: Do you feel this council is able to carry on in an efficient manner without a researcher?

Hon. Ms. Munro: In my last discussion with Mr. Frolick, he indicated he would like to pursue the matter of a researcher and secretary. He feels, however, that many of the goals and objectives he articulated with me when I came on as the new minister have been met. The council is meeting regularly. They have submitted recommendations to us and we will be addressing the question of the researcher and secretary.

Mr. Leluk: You are not planning to phase out the researcher as you phased out the one secretary?

Hon. Ms. Munro: No. My response is that we will recruit a researcher in the near future.

On the question of the native community worker program, it will be transferred to the Ministry of Community and Social Services at the beginning of the new fiscal year, April 1, at its present level of funding.

With regard to the funding for this program, it is more appropriate that the member raise the issue with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney). Although I understand he is positive on that aspect, I would like to leave the final decision with him. A decision regarding the future level of funding will be made as part of

his 1986-87 estimates review process, but I have made those recommendations.

Are there any other questions?

Mr. Leluk: Yes, I have some questions, but I do not know whether to proceed with the Minister without Portfolio and come back, or whether you want me to finish your questions.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes, you may.

Mr. Leluk: Maybe I could ask the Minister without Portfolio three questions I have and then I will get back to you.

In the House on October 29, I asked Mr. Ruprecht what responsibilities were assigned to him as the Minister without Portfolio by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and by the first minister, Ms. Munro. I do not believe the answer you gave in the House was adequate. You talked about meeting with the ethnocultural communities throughout the province. Can you enlighten us as to what your responsibilities are?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: In his wisdom, the Premier assigned me to have special responsibility in the area of multiculturalism and to determine, which is why the two are so important, how the whole operation in the field of multiculturalism was perceived by the ethnocultural community in the past.

I thought this was a very fair way to determine whether the communities across Ontario are being served, whether there is a need for more sensitivity to be shown to the different communities, whether there are different needs in the north and the south or whether there are different needs within the different kinds of communities we have. As you will realize yourself, the multicultural communities are made up of many different groups. Some groups arrived recently and consequently have certain needs, while some groups came generations ago and have different needs.

We want to determine whether there should be a new thrust, for instance, or whether we are sensitive enough to the different communities. The Premier, with the agreement and co-operation of my colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Culture, decided one of the major thrusts should be to determine in what way we can be of more help to the different communities. As you and Mr. Grande realize, I was previously the critic and it was in the interest of us all to determine how we could be of better service.

Mr. Grande: Speak up.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Can you not hear me there?

Mrs. Marland: Not too well. I am younger than Mr. Grande and I cannot hear you too well.

Mr. Grande: It has nothing to do with age.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: In short, that is the area of responsibility.

Mr. Leluk: That is the responsibility assigned to you by the Premier. Are you assigned any responsibilities by the first minister from time to time?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: There is a good deal of co-operation. We do work in tandem and we like what we are doing.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Grande: I talked to the Minister without Portfolio in the Legislature on a couple of occasions. I asked him several questions about the work he is doing. I hope he came prepared with the answers to those questions, namely, the meetings he has had, with whom and where, the scope and purpose of the meetings, what information he has gathered as to the possibility of making recommendations to whomever, whether it is—

Mr. Leluk: Mr. Chairman, that is not a supplementary to my question. I will get around to that one in a minute and he can then ask a supplementary. However, this question deals with the minister's responsibilities as assigned to him by the Premier.

Mr. Grande: That is exactly what I am addressing.

Mr. Leluk: I do not believe it is supplementary.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, the first question by Mr. Leluk was a general question, so I want to pursue that.

Mr. Leluk: If it was a general question, how can you pursue it with specific questions as supplementary questions?

Mr. Chairman: Put your question forward.

Mr. Grande: It is a general question about the role of the Minister without Portfolio, whether it was the Premier who gave him that responsibility or whether it was the present Minister of Citizenship and Culture.

I would like to have information based on the meetings Mr. Ruprecht has had and the input he has received. What was he looking for? What recommendations did he make and to whom? Were the recommendations accepted? Is there a report of the work he is doing and, in keeping with the spirit of government, can he table that report?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: That is a pretty fair question, but I agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that is not supplementary. Let me address myself to Mr. Grande's supplementary which is general, that is, the responsibility the Premier has provided. The two of you can fight with the chairman as to who is going to ask what supplementary.

Mr. Grande: No, there will be no fighting. My fight is with you, Mr. Ruprecht.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I see. The member for Oakwood has a fight with me personally. That is very interesting. I will note that in my little black book.

Mr. Grande: Good.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: My answer to the member for Oakwood's question about my responsibility is that the Premier has assigned me to take this responsibility in the area of multiculturalism. That is easy to understand.

With respect to the specifics of how it is done on a day-to-day basis, the relationship that flows from that assignment exists between the Minister of Citizenship and Culture and me. We work out between the two of us what should be done and how it should be done. We will be getting around to the question of finances. How much will this whole dialogue cost? In answer to your question, posed as a supplementary to Mr. Leluk, the Premier has made the assignment and the day-to-day operation is carried out by the minister and me.

Mr. Leluk: May I carry on, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: Yes. You indicated earlier that the minister could also speak to the question, did you not?

Mr. Leluk: If she wishes.

Hon. Ms. Munro: In selecting ministers to respond to certain communities, the Premier recognized clearly the diverse nature of the multicultural milieu of this province. One of the things you must also appreciate is the tremendous number of events that take place in the ethnic communities. In taking a look at the Minister of Citizenship and Culture, myself, and at the problems and the commitment towards multiculturalism, I feel it was a wise decision. I am being supported very well by Mr. Ruprecht, as is the Premier.

Mr. Leluk: In other words, you agreed with the Premier in this regard.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The first assignment that was talked about and shared among the three of us was that of opening up public dialogue to take

a look at possible policy changes and changes in programs and services. That was a top priority and we are moving on that. Once that information is in, we will decide on another.

You should also know that Mr. Ruprecht is bringing that sense of compassion to his role in the secretariat for disabled persons.

Mr. Leluk: I am delighted to hear that the first minister is working in tandem with her colleague the other minister, and that she agreed with the Premier in appointing him a Minister without Portfolio.

In the June 27 issue of the Hamilton Spectator, you were quoted as saying that since your ministry did not have a parliamentary assistant, the member for Parkdale would perform that function. I am glad to see that you now recognize he is a minister of the crown and not a PA and that you agree with your Premier in appointing him to your ministry for the specific purpose of looking after the multicultural flag-waving.

Hon. Ms. Munro: That is true. He performs not only any function that would have been tantamount to being a special parliamentary assistant, but also other functions that are tantamount, agreeable with and acceptable as a minister. The Hamilton Spectator is on record and is well known for trying to stir up a tempest in a teapot.

Mr. Leluk: It was a quote.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I have never felt and do not believe that the Minister without Portfolio can be equated in any way with a parliamentary assistant.

Mr. Leluk: Why did you make that statement to the newspaper? It was a direct quote.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Mr. Leluk, sometimes you confuse what I am trying to say. You do not totally record everything I say.

Mr. Leluk: I see. You made a further statement in that news article that you thought he had some good ideas along with the bad. I thought you might enlighten us today as to which were the good ideas and which were the bad. Do you want to do that?

Hon. Ms. Munro: No, I do not want to do that.

Mr. Leluk: You do not want to do that. Okay.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I will tell you the good ideas that—

Mr. Leluk: I will go on to another question.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I work very closely with the Minister without Portfolio. His good ideas

are evident to me. His good actions are evident to me and will be evident to the people of Ontario.

I am not about to disparage or even stretch my memory to think about either the badness in myself—by definition I would like to understand what badness is—or the badness in Mr. Ruprecht. He is doing an excellent job, we work well together and it is fitting for the needs of this province.

Mr. Leluk: I am very pleased to hear you are now working together in tandem and that things are going well.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I thought you might be.

Mr. Leluk: My second question to—

Mr. Wiseman: May I ask a supplementary? Did you ask the Hamilton paper to print a retraction about having said that was a quote when it was not a quote?

Hon. Ms. Munro: No.

Mr. Wiseman: May I ask why not?

Mr. McKessock: That is not usually very worth while.

Mr. Wiseman: I have done that in the past when they have quoted me on something that I did not say.

Mr. Leluk: I have a second question for Mr. Ruprecht. How much money has he spent renovating his offices on the sixth floor of 77 Bloor Street West? Will he also inform us today, right now, the number of staff he has and the overall operating budget for his office?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: That is also a very fair question.

Mr. Leluk: They are all fair.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: That is right. Any question is a fair question here. I assure the honourable member that as far as the office of the Minister without Portfolio on the sixth floor of 77 Bloor Street West is concerned, no money has been spent on renovations. No money has been spent even on a new carpet, because we Liberals believe in great fiscal responsibility. Consequently, I was very conscious of spending money that way.

Mr. Wiseman: Do you carry through that same responsibility of cutting down when you hire your staff?

Mr. Leluk: Let him answer my question. He did not answer my question.

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Leluk, the answer to the first part of your question is that no money has been spent. This is the first time you asked

me the question. I am thinking about whether I purchased a picture for the wall. I am not sure whether that would fall within the realm of your question. I do not wish to give you any indication that anything was purchased that I thought was not.

When you talk about renovations, do you mean shifting walls? You do not mean a typewriter that comes into the office, do you?

Mr. Leluk: Painting of walls, shifting walls, anything of that nature.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: No carpet, no walls, no desks and no tables. It was all in there. I am very happy to report it is all second hand. Thank you for the question. It shows—

Mr. Leluk: You have not quite answered the question. I also asked about the number of staff you have and the overall operating budget for your office.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I will provide that information for you.

Mr. Leluk: Do you not know how many staff you have working for you?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I know how many staff I have, but I do not know the—

Mr. Leluk: What is the number?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: You are asking me to provide you with—

Mr. Leluk: With the number of staff.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: You are also asking me to provide you with the total operating expenses.

Mr. Leluk: Do you mind giving me the number of staff if you cannot give me the operational budget for your office at this time? How many staff do you have?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: If you give me five minutes, I will—

Mr. Leluk: If you want to count them up and it takes five minutes to do that, all right.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: No. I want to make sure. As you realize, I have other responsibilities in the secretariat for disabled persons. I have to know who is there from my other responsibilities.

The regular staff I have is an executive assistant, a special assistant, two secretaries, my driver and it could be—

Mr. Grande: Put it in Orders and Notices.

Mr. Leluk: No, this is important. It is a simple question. Is it three, four, five, six or seven?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Respectfully, I will provide you with the information within this week.

Mr. Leluk: Offhand, are you talking in the neighbourhood of six or seven people?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Yes.

Mr. Leluk: The first minister was kind enough to send us a list of names of her staff who number about 11. You are still not sure, you have to do some counting, but you think yours is in the neighbourhood of seven.

Do you think it is appropriate to have a staff of some 17 or 18 people and two ministers in a ministry that is the size of the present Ministry of Citizenship and Culture with a budget of about \$212 million? Do we need that many people to run this ministry?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: You would have to ask the minister responsible for the budget allocation for that ministry. I can tell you only how many people I have and I will give you an exact account of them. Are you asking me to respond for the whole ministry now? I do not think that question should be directed to me.

Mr. Leluk: The whole ministry is made up of you and the first minister, as the two ministers within that ministry, and support staff. Most of the larger ministries in this government do not have support staff numbering 18, 19 or 20. Do you feel it is necessary to have some 18 support staff and two ministers in this very small ministry, with a budget in the neighbourhood of \$212 million, \$220 million, \$222 million or whatever it is? Is it necessary to have that many staff to operate this ministry?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: The Minister of Citizenship and Culture will answer for her staff. As far as my staff is concerned, it is not any more than was allocated by the civil service for a Minister without Portfolio. I do not have any more than the proper allocation of a Minister without Portfolio.

Mr. Leluk: It is excessive that any ministry should have two ministers and some 18 support staff when it does not require that kind of staffing. I was once minister of that ministry. It does not need two ministers and 18 support staff.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The function of a Minister without Portfolio, when you take a look at why there is that designation, is primarily to respond to special needs or to certain areas within the government. Mr. Van Horne is also a Minister without Portfolio and he serves the needs across a number of ministries.

In this case, for a people-oriented ministry and with the commitment of this Premier to take a look at multicultural representation and needs, I do not find it out of the question that we would

have a Minister without Portfolio assigned to this ministry at the very outset of the government.

Mr. Leluk: Why was one minister able to do that in the past?

Hon. Ms. Munro: It is in keeping with the priorities of the government. Mr. Ruprecht is handling his role very accountably, and he indicated quite clearly that he is carrying responsibilities for the handicapped. I cannot tell you the kind of balance, where the shift and ebb and flow of actual functions and duties will be, of a Minister without Portfolio.

The Premier indicated it, I fully supported it and we are working well together. The ministry and the people of Ontario are benefiting from the expertise Mr. Ruprecht is bringing in under the guidelines this government is following for Ministers without Portfolio.

Mr. Leluk: Since this ministry came into being in 1974, one minister has always looked after the multicultural and citizenship side. It did not need two ministers. It is nothing more than Liberal flag-waving to have another minister running around this province with his dog and pony show to curry the support of the ethnocultural groups in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I want to make one point. I am not sure I appreciate Mr. Leluk's remark about the dog and pony show. I can appreciate his remark that the responsibilities are not as he sees them, but the remark about having a dog and pony show is a bit over the limit. I ask that he kindly withdraw that remark.

Mr. Leluk: That is my personal opinion.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: You are asking me the question. We are doing a job out there. The people we are meeting with are appreciative of the fact that the ministry has undertaken to look into the matter of multiculturalism.

Mr. Leluk: Are you saying the previous government and the ministers, who came before this minister and you, did not do that?

Mr. Grande: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: That is not the point.

Mr. Leluk: Is the member for Oakwood answering the question? Was he the minister of the day at one time?

Mr. McKessock: Can the minister tell me how many ministers the government has in total?

Hon. Ms. Munro: No. I cannot tell you. I will have to count on my fingers. I do not know.

Mr. McKessock: Is it 22, 24, somewhere in that area? How many did the previous government have?

Hon. Ms. Munro: A few more than that, significantly more.

Mr. Leluk: did you have a parliamentary assistant when you were minister?

Mr. Leluk: No, I did not need one.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Did Ms. Fish?

Mr. Leluk: I cannot speak for Ms. Fish. I do not know if she did. She may have.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Is that information available?

Mr. Leluk: Sure, it is. She may very well have had.

Mr. Chairman: It is a matter of record.

Mr. Leluk: Can I get on with my question? I have another question for Mr. Ruprecht.

Mr. Grande: I understand Mr. Leluk was the parliamentary assistant to Bob Welch.

Mr. Leluk: Yes, I was.

I would like to ask Mr. Ruprecht about his current study on multiculturalism. I asked this question in the House on December 19, 1985, and I asked the same question of the first minister on January 10, 1986. I have yet to receive an answer.

What organizations has he met with and what organizations will he be meeting with? What will be the cost of his 21 meetings, or dialogues as he calls them, including travel and accommodation? What will be the cost for the ministry officials to travel with him? What are the terms of reference for this study? Has he consulted the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship?

Mr. Grande: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Mr. Leluk, did you place the question yet?

Mr. Grande: Madam Minister, I have a point of order. I suggested to Mr. Leluk as nicely as I could that he put these in Orders and Notices. These questions require specific information that could very well be put in Orders and Notices, and I encourage him to do so.

Mr. Leluk: These questions were addressed in the House well over six weeks ago.

Mr. Grande: You got answers.

Mr. Leluk: It was eight weeks ago and I have not yet had an answer. Here we are in estimates and I am trying to get an answer to my question, which I asked on December 19, 1985, and on January 10, 1986. I have yet to get an answer.

Mr. Chairman: Could we have an answer? The minister is anxious to answer your point of order.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The question is not in Orders and Notices. We are waiting for you to put it there.

Mr. Leluk: Why does it have to be in Orders and Notices when it was asked in the House?

Hon. Ms. Munro: You said you would put it in Orders and Notices.

Mr. Leluk: I asked this question of Mr. Ruprecht in the House on December 19, during question period. I asked the minister the same question in the House on January 10, during question period and I have yet to get an answer.

Hon. Ms. Munro: My understanding from Mr. Ruprecht was that you said it would be in Orders and Notices.

Mr. Leluk: I do not need to put it in Orders and Notices to get an answer. I am asking you here to give me an answer.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: We have some answers.

Mr. Leluk: Nowhere in Hansard did I say I would put it in Orders and Notices.

Hon. Ms. Munro: Right, I see now. I am reading it closely. Mr. Davis indicated it should be in Orders and Notices and then Mr. Ruprecht picked up on that. That is probably where the misunderstanding occurred.

Mr. Leluk: There is no misunderstanding. Can you give me—

Mrs. Marland: If we cannot ask questions such as this, what point is there in having estimates? We could throw all the estimate questions in Orders and Notices if that were the process. The reason we are here today is to discuss the estimates of this ministry. I suggest that any staff or the Minister without Portfolio affiliated with that ministry is part of the estimates that are before this committee. Am I correct?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Are you asking me that question?

Mrs. Marland: No. I am asking the chairman.

Mr. Chairman: That is a fair interpretation. However, there is a clear misunderstanding here, Mr. Leluk. In fairness to the minister, if you read what it says here in Hansard, it was reasonable to assume it would appear in Orders and Notices. It was your friend the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) sitting beside you, who helped you out on this matter.

Mr. Leluk: Why would I have reasked the question in the House then, which I did, back on January 10, if I intended to put in Orders and Notices what had been put in Orders and Notices shortly after the question was posed in the House to Mr. Ruprecht?

Mr. Chairman: I have no idea.

Mr. Leluk: I do not see where the confusion is. Can they give us an answer today as to what these 21 meetings will cost for travel accommodation, for the minister and for any of his officials travelling with him and what the terms of reference of this study are? Can we not get them answered today?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Let me try to be helpful.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, have you decided on the point of order? Have you decided whether we can continue with these questions that could easily be put in Orders and Notices so we do not waste the time of this committee?

Mr. Chairman: The exact point Mr. Leluk asked was asked by you when you interrupted him earlier. How do I rule on that? You asked exactly the same questions of Mr. Ruprecht following Mr. Leluk's initial question.

Mr. Grande: The member for Parkdale refused to answer my question. I leave it at that.

Mr. Wiseman: I do not think he did.

Mr. Grande: He said it was between him, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the minister.

Mrs. Marland: No, he did not say that.

Mr. Wiseman: That is not what he said.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: How can you understand that? I do not understand you now. Were you listening?

Mr. Grande: I was.

Mr. Wiseman: Fire that parliamentary assistant.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Yes, if the member for Oakwood were a parliamentary assistant, he would be in trouble right now.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Ruprecht did not say that. He did not get a chance. The chairman interrupted.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Chairman, for the record, there was a problem as I perceived it between Mr. Leluk's general question, which I answered, and Mr. Grande's question.

Mr. Chairman: Right.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Then you had a problem with Mr. Leluk in trying to determine whether Mr. Grande's question was really a supplementary or not. I tried to help out by saying I would

answer the question for Mr. Leluk and the relevant supplementary asked by Mr. Grande. I answered that part of it. Then I waited for Mr. Leluk to ask the relevant question that could be followed by Mr. Grande's question. We are at that point now and I am willing to make some helpful remarks.

Mr. Wiseman: Why do you not just answer them both so they can get some answers here today?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: For the record, I will indicate that I did not refuse to answer the member's question. I hope I have the support of this committee.

Mr. Wiseman: If you answer Mr. Leluk, you will also be answering Mr. Grande. We will get the thing going and we will get finished here so we can get some more questions answered.

Mr. Leluk: I was just handed these answers to some 20 questions I posed.

Mr. Wiseman: Are you going to drop this point?

Mr. Leluk: No, this is on this point. Her reply to me states: "My ministry has instituted a series of 21 dialogues with ethnocultural groups across the province to determine specifically the needs of those groups"—as Mr. Ruprecht pointed out to us today—"to gain information and suggestions to analyse and base future policy decisions on and to introduce participants to the regional service staff in the area in order to facilitate future information exchange. A package outlining the nature and intent of policies and programs is included in the invitation to our dialogues."

Do I take that to mean this package is mainly material that is already here, or is it the intent of policies and programs that are related to your travelling around the province to these 21 meetings? We have asked questions in the House, but we do not seem to be getting any answers these days. The questions are posed but we do not get any answers.

When I asked a question on December 19, 1985, I got a very general answer to a very specific question. I asked the same question of the first minister on January 10, 1986, and again I got a very flimsy and general answer. I asked the question in estimates here today and I could not get an answer, and yet you people have some kind of a package circulating. I would like to have this package given to me today; whatever it is that is mentioned here in these answers the minister has given.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: The minister will agree with me that there is no problem presenting you with a package.

Mr. Leluk: How about some answers then?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I was just about to say that. I am ready to provide some helpful suggestions here. As far as your first point is concerned, I see no reason that you should not have a copy of the package. It is no problem.

Mr. Chairman, if you do not mind, let me present Mr. Leluk with answers to some of the questions I am familiar with.

Mr. Chairman: Are you prepared to table the answers to those questions or do you want them right now?

Mr. Leluk: If the minister is unable to answer me—

Mr. Chairman: Do you want them verbally right now or do you want them in writing right now?

Mr. Leluk: I want to get the answers on the record and we are running out of time. My concern is we have a minister of the crown running around the province attending 21 meetings and having dialogues with various groups. He has given me the names of the groups he is meeting with, but he has not been able to tell me the cost of those 21 meetings, for travel and accommodation for himself and his ministry staff.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: That is not true.

Mr. Leluk: I find it hard to believe he has planned a project the Premier asked him to take on, and yet he does not have some kind of a costing for it. He does not know who he will be meeting and he has no terms of reference for this study. He has not even consulted the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship. Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: May I make some helpful remarks? This is the fourth time I say this.

Mr. Chairman: Proceed.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: First, with regard to your second question about consultation with the multicultural advisory committee, the multicultural advisory committee chairman, whom you know, is being advised of the dialogues and their locations. He is co-operating by providing some names of groups he thinks are important. That has been done. If you have any information that indicates the chairman is not informed and that there is no co-operation, that is not true. The chairman is informed and he is co-operating.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Leluk: Why have you not told me that? It is a simple question you are now answering. I asked you three times, four times, maybe half a

dozen times, and you are now saying you talked to the chairman.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: This is the fourth time I am saying it. I would like to give you some help.

Mr. Chairman: Proceed with your answers, please.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: The second part is your broader question about the context. I indicated to you that the context of the dialogues is to receive public input with respect to both policy and program development and the whole delivery mechanism in the area of multiculturalism.

Specifically, I have given you and Mr. Grande a list that outlines quite clearly and distinctly the groups I have met with. It lists the groups which have attended and those which have been notified in St. Catharines, Sudbury, Oshawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Brampton and Guelph. I just gave you a copy of it.

Mr. Grande: I do not have that.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I am sorry. There were two copies provided. This gives you a list of people that we have specifically identified and consulted with as to the future meetings that will not take place until late spring or probably early summer. We are not in a position at this point, although we will be once the dialogues have been completed, of providing you with a list of people and organizations we are meeting with. I will be most happy to do that for you if you wish. You are the critic and you should have that kind of information.

I cannot provide you with that information because I have not yet been to Peterborough, Ottawa, Brantford, Sarnia and some of the other places. When that takes place, I will be very happy to provide you with that information.

Mr. Chairman: The cost of this is one.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Yes. With respect to the cost, I will turn that over to my colleague.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I can help you out there since I am the minister responsible for the dollar part of the estimates. We estimate that the cost, if I am correct, is not to exceed an average of \$2,500 per visit. So far, our estimate is that the costs have ranged between \$1,700 and \$1,800.

Mr. Leluk: Do you mean for the 21 meetings?

Hon. Ms. Munro: For each.

Mr. Leluk: It is \$2,100 for each of the 21?

Hon. Ms. Munro: No. We thought there would be, on average, a cost of \$2,500 per visit to whatever centre we designated of the 21. So far, we have found the cost to be significantly less.

Mr. Leluk: Does that include accommodations for staff and what have you?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Yes. Mr. Ruprecht is also dovetailing with existing regional offices and multicultural councils. He is running a tight ship.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: There is not only that. You should realize there are travel expenses involved when we go to Thunder Bay, for instance. If we travel to Guelph, it is just a short distance. Consequently, the costs for the dialogues at the centres for which it is a quick trip are very low, whereas for the centres that are farther out, there is more cost. You would like to see us go to Timmins, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie, would you not?

Mr. Leluk: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: Then you will take back your remark about the dog and pony show?

Mr. Leluk: Your minister has told us we have a policy in place that the previous government came up with in 1971, and that the present government sees fit to continue it as its policy in this ministry. No one is opposed to communications and talking to people.

It just seems rather convenient that there are 21 meetings being held across this province at a fairly sizeable expense. If we are looking at \$2,500 on average, we are looking at an approximate cost of about \$50,000, if that is the figure. No one is opposed to dialogue, but it seems to be more of a flag-waving exercise than anything else.

We do have a policy and your minister has indicated she is quite happy with it. According to your own words, Mr. Ruprecht, you are looking for more policy input from these people. You want to see what their needs are.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: The minister will explain that quite clearly.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I want to take exception to the comments on flag waving. This government takes Mr. Ruprecht's dialogues very seriously as one of the variables we consider important to get good feedback on reassessments and any possible policy changes.

I explained at great length that we view policy change to take as long or short a time as we feel is necessary and appropriate. In our plan, we are following up on the Premier's guidelines on the changes he wants to see in programs and services, and reflecting back as to whether that has policy implications.

To say I am happy with the universal principles of multiculturalism is a true statement. To say I do not intend to make and am not

committed to making recommendations, along with my colleague and other multicultural people in this province, is in error.

Finally, I say to you again, to raise the red flag, that I do not like that terminology because it is very serious. The ethnic people of this province would not look very kindly on that kind of—it is not even rhetoric—statement.

Mr. Chairman: Any other points, Mr. Leluk?

Mr. Leluk: I would like to correct the record from the last meeting. I know Mr. Grande has some questions and I also have some other questions of the minister. I might put those in Orders and Notices.

I do not have the printed Hansard; I have only the rough draft. It is dated January 8, 1986, and I am identifying the pages as pages 31 and 32 in handwritten form, or G-1520-1 and G-1520-2.

In answer to a question from Mrs. Marland on cultural agencies, the minister said:

"I also initiated a series of discussions with my federal counterpart, Mr. Masse, to discuss a number of bilateral as well as multilateral issues related to the support of cultural activity in Ontario. Many of these matters related to joint funding, which we have all raised as being one of the issues of priority cultural projects within this province.

"You are aware of some of them. I think they are worthy of mention again. The cultural subagreement of the urban regional development association was signed by this government"—referring to her government—"and was taken as a good policy put forward by the previous government."

To correct the record, I was the minister in June 1985. It was my government, this minister and the Treasurer of the day at that time, Dr. Stephenson, who signed that agreement and sent it on to Mr. Masse in Ottawa. I just wanted to correct the record. It was not this government; it was the Progressive Conservative government that signed that agreement.

Hon. Ms. Munro: That is a fair correction.

I will make another correction, since you did not pick up on it.

Mr. Leluk: Please do.

Hon. Ms. Munro: It is the economic and regional development agreement, not the urban regional development association.

Second, I congratulate you on putting forward the ERDA agreement, but one of the things that did not happen under your government was getting the federal government to come through on its part of the agreement. We are fighting to

make sure the federal government does come through. Although you can take credit for putting that agreement through, you cannot take credit for getting the federal government to do very much.

Mr. Leluk: No one is trying to take credit for the fact that Mr. Masse did not have the decency to return some dozen phone calls I made to his office or reply to the letter I sent him, together with the agreement, in the first week of June. I am not trying to take credit for the agreement that has been signed, if it has. I am not aware. Has it finally been signed by the federal government?

Hon. Ms. Munro: We continue to press for the signing of the agreement.

Mr. Leluk: Wonderful. I am pleased to hear that because it is worth while.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I thought you might be because I have also made a number of telephone calls. Among the two of us and the other members of the opposition, I am sure we will be able to get Mr. Masse to commit himself.

Mr. Grande: He has been gagged.

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Ms. Munro: We continue to fight to get the money.

Mr. Leluk: I felt it was necessary to correct the record to indicate that the government that signed the agreement in June was our government. You may have sent a second agreement signed by yourself and the current Treasurer, but I wanted to set the record straight.

Hon. Ms. Munro: That is true.

Mr. Grande: Is it time for me ask some questions of the minister?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, it might be an appropriate time right now.

Mr. Grande: I hope we will have some time.

Mr. Chairman: The record will show you have had a good share of the time. Carry on now, please.

Mr. Grande: Maybe we could take a look at the record.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Grande: Good. I will ask the minister some questions with regard to her remarks early this afternoon, namely, that she is in agreement and is working towards affirmative action and employment equity.

Is the minister saying she will establish a committee of this Legislature to ensure that employment equity takes place for our visible and ethnic minorities so that this committee will

have the power to get answers to some of those questions I have been putting in Orders and Notices since 1978? The Progressive Conservatives, when in government, never answered the questions. It now seems that your government is not willing to answer the questions.

Are you going to establish an all-party committee regarding affirmative action and employment equity for ethnic and visible minorities?

Hon. Ms. Munro: The suggestion is a good one. I have looked, as you have, at the figures of the recent report on employment equity which lists the progress or lack of progress made by ministers in hiring under that concept. We believe the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture has made significant progress in hiring and making equal opportunities available for all people in the province. We can improve on that.

Your suggestion to take it to a committee of the House, if that is the correct terminology, is a good one and I will share it with my colleagues. We are currently carrying out reviews in our own fashion to get a firm grasp on critical areas. My colleague the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has already gone on record with legislation on affirmative action for women.

Mr. Grande: In the answer to one of the questions in Notices and Orders, question 10, November 21, 1985, all I got was, "The current government is aware of the issues raised in the report and is fully committed to ensuring that appointments of agencies, boards and commissions reflect the diversity of Ontario's population." That is a different format from what I got from the previous administration. It said, "This government is an equal opportunity employer."

I want to know, specifically, how that policy is translated into fact. That is why I was asking about the number of people who speak second and third languages within the government and about people who come from visible minorities and the kinds of positions they have within government. I am not just talking about appointments to agencies, boards and commissions, but about full-time jobs within the public service of this province.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The government is committed to making employment equity more of a reality. I fully support the whole concept. I am working with the Attorney General and all my cabinet colleagues to assess the full range of the government's equality initiatives and the implementation process. This includes specific proactive measures directed at the changing demographics in the province and the changing

representations within and across groups, as you have indicated.

The Ontario women's directorate is currently reviewing the employment equity affirmative action program and we will be taking a look at that report. The Civil Service Commission has initiated data collection and a study pertaining to employment advancement of racial minorities in the civil service. If you are asking me to make a stronger statement, any of the statements made by the Premier and my colleagues indicate to me that we are committed to making employment equity a reality.

Mr. Grande: I am asking—and I have not heard a yes to the question—whether you are moving to suggest to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), the Attorney General or the Premier that we set up an all-party committee of this Legislature as quickly as possible so that those questions with regard to affirmative action and employment equity for minorities will be dealt with and policies and recommendations will be given to government. Then, once and for all, we will be able to see a movement forward, as opposed to standing still without any facts or information on this matter.

Hon. Ms. Munro: That is a fair question and I will do so.

Mr. Chairman: That is the second time you have answered that question.

Mr. Grande: It was not answered that way.

The next question has to do with the film industry. I heard the minister say she is in agreement with the Canadian cinema report. The major part of that report addresses itself to the control of distribution of films. As it is now, the distribution part is primarily in the control of the United States.

I understand from the federal government that the distribution is a provincial responsibility. How will you effect control of distribution in this province? Will you bring in legislation similar or dissimilar to the legislation that was brought in in Quebec? Will you establish some kind of policy regarding a box office levy so funds can be procured to fund our distribution mechanism?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I asked the ministry to bring together a dossier on the pros and cons of the kind of legislation which was followed by the Quebec government, which seems to have been aborted. Our problem in Ontario is to come up with a distribution network that allows the distribution of made-in-Ontario and made-in-Canada films and ensures that they are marketed and have a reasonable opportunity for being aired

and bought by Canadians. If you have any suggestions on how that might be done, I am more than willing to get together with you.

It is within the provincial jurisdiction to have power over licensing. Whether that licensing power is of any benefit to the Ontario Film Development Corp. linking with Telefilm Canada, is something we have to sort out at the moment. We are reviewing what that licensing set of regulations means to us in terms of distribution.

In some instances, it seems to indicate—almost relating to the previous discussion we had here of films for viewing—that we want to tie the distribution and licensing into films that are clearly manufactured here and are tied into all the economic variables connected with the film industry.

Mr. Grande: In answer to the levy at the box office, you are saying that with some capital, some funding, distribution by Canadians of the production of Canadian feature films could take place, instead of governments having to put a tremendous amount of money in all the time to encourage its direction.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I will be taking those kinds of suggestions up with the Treasurer. I understand what you are talking about, but I would be remiss to talk about it before I discussed it with the Treasurer.

3:40 p.m.

In protecting and enhancing the film industry, we are trying to make sure the industry has every available opportunity facilitated by this government to proceed in all phases of film making. If that means we have to strengthen the legislation, we will do that.

We are taking a look, we are reviewing and we will continue to review. We will have to have that information together very shortly for the upcoming meeting with Mr. Masse in March, the topic of which will be the entire publishing industry and film. It is not all that far away.

I should also mention, Mr. Grande, that in my second round of discussions with the cultural industries in November, I had a meeting that was as representative of the cultural industries as possible. At the end of January, I am holding discussions with the publishing sector. The next meeting, which I expect will be a couple of weeks later, will be with the film sector. I am pushing forward. I have a lot of unanswered questions that I would value talking about with you because you have the same interests.

Mr. Grande: Can I ask another question about computers and the movement to fund them

through the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture? I believe you devote about \$6 million to \$8 million to them.

My understanding is that we are also doing a tremendous amount in terms of computer terminals in the schools, through the Ministry of Education. Why does your ministry feel that kind of duplication is necessary?

Hon. Ms. Munro: If it was duplication, it would not be necessary. However, it is not duplication. The function of the computers and children program and the kinds of computers we think are appropriate are for different reasons than those that are envisaged by the Ministry of Education. It is using to its total capacity the programming, the hardware and building blocks to go into computers as a field of career endeavour.

Computers and children was designed to introduce those disadvantaged groups, children and their families, to the whole notion of computer technology. In taking a look at some of those introductory kinds of experiences with computers, we found that a cheaper computer would fulfil the function. It was not only cost-effective but also functionally effective to go with the range. Incidentally, we do not have simply one kind of computer. We have chosen a number of computers.

Since we phased in the delivery of the computers, our evidence is that all the computers are working to support the needs of the children. If children are then entering the normal school system, they will be going on to the computer system provided by the Ministry of Education. I do not see a duplication. I do not see it as terminal learning either. In other words, I do not feel our computers and children program is a dead end. The universal skills they pick up on the computers will transfer very readily. It is money well spent. I do not have to say any more.

Mr. Grande: The reason I asked that question was that for the past number of years I have been trying to get the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation before that, to move into the area of developing multicultural material for use in the heritage language programs in our schools.

While many people within your ministry, at least at the director and deputy ministry level, have agreed with that concept in the past, I have seen no movement whatsoever in that regard. The concept is simple. We have the heritage language programs in the schools, administered through the Ministry of Education, and we require Canadian-made materials, not those

imported from other countries, to teach the heritage language and culture of the many ethnic communities and visible minorities that develop here—black education or what have you.

Would you see going into the development of these teaching materials or tools for the teachers and the children who are involved in the heritage language programs?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I think that would be a natural extension and it is an excellent suggestion. Since you are talking about interacted computer technology, we would be dovetailing with the Ministry of Education on that, as we do with other projects, including TVOntario. The ministry is already on record as investigating distance education in several instances, but so far we have simply distributed training materials, opened up telephones and used packaged programs over satellite. We have gone a long way towards developing quality heritage language materials as well as English as a second language and, recently, English in the work place. We will take your suggestion into consideration.

Mr. Grande: I want to deal with libraries and library funding next. The reason I seem to be going all over the place is that I am conscious of the time. I feel the chairman is going to butt in at any moment.

Mr. Chairman: With the agreement of the committee, you have about eight minutes.

Mr. Grande: See what I mean.

The trend we have seen in the past several years has been to increase per capita grants every two or three years or to coincide, very nicely it seems, with elections. In the past several years we have seen a decline in provincial support and funding to public libraries, which means the municipal level of government has to pick up the tab or cut services within our libraries.

Given the increase that was announced two weeks ago, does that department of your ministry have a plan to increase funding to libraries within five or six years so libraries may once again become a shared, not solely a municipality, responsibility? You were talking about sharing? I understand about all these other programs in support of libraries, but I am talking about the core and the per capita funding that occurs from time to time through your ministry.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The library legislation itself leaves municipal councils to decide whether and how much to support public library boards. Therefore, the public library funding is shared between the municipality and the province. The majority of funding has been based on

the level of support assessed as appropriate by the municipality. It is clear municipalities have seen fit to increase their funding over the last two or three years in this period of changing library systems and challenges.

We have a provincial public library grant which provides a basic grant on a per household formula to all public libraries in Ontario. That provides a measure of equalization amongst the boards. Also, we are providing initiatives to shore up provincial participation in funding for northern Ontario. For example, the per household grant is 10 per cent more than for libraries in southern Ontario. For northern libraries being provided with automation, there are various grants to northern boards for \$100,000. There is the bilingual situation where French collections have been received. So moneys are available for libraries through our library initiatives.

3:50 p.m.

Whether we ever move to a position of matching grants at the municipal level is something I cannot answer because I have not looked into it in depth. Right now the province has decided that the basic grant on a per household formula is something it can live with and make sense of. We have moved in the area of providing different kinds of initiatives. I would like to take a look at the shape of those initiatives in order to enter into a different kind of partnership with the municipalities.

Mr. Grande: That is a fair answer. I did not mean to put you on the spot to do it today. It is a change in direction, similar to the Ministry of Education reversing the trend of the lack of provincial funding and putting more and more of the cost of education on the municipal tax base. The same thing has occurred within the libraries.

Since there is a newness about this government, I hope there are going to be changes in direction and an abandonment of the initiatives and programs of the previous administration, as well as reversal of some of the trends it established. I encourage you and the Minister of Education to reverse those trends in funding because the municipal tax base is very finite as opposed to the provincial tax base. Movement towards decreased funding to municipalities is something to be seriously looked at and to be reversed.

The other question is with respect to arts funding. For the record, I want to completely dissociate myself with both the member for York West (Mr. Leluk) and the member for—

Mrs. Marland: Mississauga South.

Mr. Grande: Mississauga South.

Mr. Leluk: You would because you are very pro-abortion. I am sure you would.

Mr. Chairman: I think it is clear from the record this morning that you dissociate yourself.

Mr. Grande: If I may, Mr. Chairman, you said I have eight minutes. I will take my time.

I want to dissociate myself with statements they made, with the direction they were trying to push the Ontario council, a direction not only of censorship but of precensorship. In effect this goes down to the basic core of freedom of speech and freedom of expression of society.

Mr. Wiseman: He was not listening at all. He plugged his ears.

Mr. Grande: I definitely do not want to have any part whatsoever with that kind of mentality.

Mr. Leluk: I would not want you on my side any day.

Mrs. Marland: Thank goodness we have Hansard.

Mr. Grande: That is right.

Mr. Wiseman: People reading Hansard should look back to this morning to see what was actually said.

Mr. Grande: However, I must stress that the examples the two members brought forward are legitimate political concerns and have been dealt with, whether in debate on the Theatres Act or in other debates in the Legislature. As far as I am concerned, there is no way the Ontario Arts Council could address those kinds of issues. They are political questions, not questions being directed to the arts council, which has a mandate imposed upon it by this Legislature. I hope we are not going back in time with respect to the arts, art policy and arm's length relationships in this province.

I understand the \$2 million this government provided to the Ontario Arts Council, along with the \$1 million from the former government, is built in at the base. Since a great number of the arts, arts groups and institutions in this province rely on the Ontario Arts Council for funding, is the government thinking of providing further funding to the Ontario Arts Council? I think the arts have been underfunded for many years in this province.

Mr. Wiseman: You have been very fair to him, Mr. Chairman. You gave him two or three minutes overtime.

Hon. Ms. Munro: All of us on the government side and within one party are very cognizant of the need to balance the interests of our artistic

community with the sensitive needs of community development.

Personally, I feel the way the Ontario Arts Council has handled arm's-length relationships is reflected not only in high quality but in the content level of various films and works of art. I want to leave it with the council, which does not mean I am trying to get away from the situation.

We are in contact with Mr. Kwinter on an ongoing basis for information purposes about the Theatres Act and understand the implications for the Criminal Code.

Mr. Leluk: You mean there is no such thing as a dirty book?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Your comments just blow my mind, Mr. Leluk. After a while, I cannot even think. What was the second question?

Mr. Leluk: The comments your ministers make in the House, when they do comment, sure blow our minds.

Hon. Ms. Munro: In terms of more core funding for the arts council, when we gave the \$2 million added to the \$1 million prior to that, it was an effort to introduce that into the base. I agree with Mr. Grande that the arts council is doing the job it was intended to do and, in looking at various programs, is sometimes put in the position of having to shuttle around and terminate programs that are really working.

We will be maintaining the budget, including the \$2 million in the funding proposals which we are currently going through with the Treasurer. I will be pushing as hard as I can to give the arts council the funding that is needed in line with fiscal restraint.

Mr. Chairman: Now that we have thoroughly considered all the financial aspects of these estimates, do votes 3201 through 3206 carry?

Votes 3201 to 3206, inclusive, agreed to.

Mrs. Marland: May I ask a question?

Mr. Chairman: I put the question and it carried.

Mrs. Marland: With respect, I hate to see your question carried so fast that I cannot even get my book open to see what vote 3201 is. I was waiting for Mr. Grande to finish. Since he had two rounds of asking questions, do I not also have two rounds of asking questions?

Mr. Chairman: You could have had, but we ran out of time.

Mrs. Marland: How is it that Mr. Grande, as a member of the second opposition party, had a second chance at asking questions ahead of me?

Mr. Chairman: I think I was fair about letting all members in when they had a question, when they had their hands up. We have run out of time. I am compelled by standing orders to put the question.

Mrs. Marland: All right. Are we not allowed to ask questions on vote items?

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect, we have had five hours to do that.

Mrs. Marland: I was told the process was that at the beginning I could ask overall questions, which I did, and further questions of the agencies when they were here. Then, as we go through the vote items, I could ask questions before we vote on each item.

I think this is unjust because I followed the advice I was given as to the procedure for dealing with estimates. In fairness, I asked opening questions at the beginning, as Hansard will show from two weeks ago. This morning I asked questions of the agencies, boards and commissions, as Hansard will show also. Mr. Grande has done the same thing step by step until this afternoon. He has had his own series of questions, which I am quite happy for him to have had. But I have outstanding questions before I can vote on those issues.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry, but I am required to put the question at the end of five hours, which I have done. I am not sure where you got your advice.

Mrs. Marland: No, they are not on record.

Mr. Chairman: The only thing I am sure of is that you did not get it from me.

Mr. McKessock: The advice Mrs. Marland got was fairly accurate, but it is up to the committee to decide how it wants to use the time, whether it goes item by item, uses it up in statements, or whatever. This committee never made the choice to go item by item.

Mrs. Marland: With respect, Mr. McKessock, since the outset of this meeting—and I do not know whether you were here the first morning—we have followed the procedure we decided on. But I was told that when vote items are dealt with, questions can be asked before the vote is taken. That is all I am asking for.

I want the record to show I have not completed my questioning, so it is very difficult for me to vote on any of the items to be voted on. I do not have the answers I need. Therefore, my choice is to put my questions on the order paper. As the votes are called, I do not plan to vote on them because I am not in a position to do that without answers to my questions.

Mr. Chairman: That is fair enough. This happens all the time in estimates. When time is up, the question must be put. I did hear, unless I hear now to the contrary, that these votes shall carry.

Mrs. Marland: Will it show I am not voting?

Mr. Chairman: The record will. You have already said you were not and everything is being recorded.

Mrs. Marland: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much. This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Mrs. Marland: Did you say vote 3201? Are not even the numbers of the votes identified?

Mr. Chairman: I called votes 3201 through 3206.

Mrs. Marland: I did not hear you say that.

Mr. Chairman: Next week we have the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the following week of the Ministry of Skills Development.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

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No. G-15

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, January 29, 1986
Morning Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, January 29, 1986

The committee met at 10:13 a.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Chairman: Good morning everyone. We have the minister and Mr. Adlington, the Deputy Minister, with us this morning, to consider the estimates of colleges and universities for five hours. If the minister is agreeable to putting in two hours this morning and three this afternoon, I presume we will go to 12:15 p.m. and come back at 2 p.m. and finish at close to 5 p.m.

Ms. Bryden has suggested that we have some formal structure for the consideration of various items. We may have to consider that before we adjourn for lunch, but I think we can commence now with the opening statement of the minister.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: This is my first experience in an estimates committee and I look forward to a full and open discussion of these estimates. I think you all have a copy of my prepared remarks and I will deliver them now.

I am pleased to introduce the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and to take this opportunity to highlight some of the government's initiatives in post-secondary education.

Ontario's post-secondary institutions play a critical role in expanding and harvesting the province's intellectual resources. Colleges and universities are the most valuable tool Ontario has at its disposal for the unleashing of the brain power inherent in its people.

Les établissements d'enseignement post-secondaire ont, sur le plan historique, joué un rôle significatif dans l'édification de la base intellectuelle de notre province. Cependant, l'Ontario veut, à l'heure actuelle, revitaliser le moteur de sa croissance économique et cette situation confère à ses collèges et universités une importance accrue. Dans cette perspective, il se peut que les investissements faits dans l'éducation et la formation soient le facteur qui influence le plus l'aptitude de la province à promouvoir et à façonner son développement social et économique.

The importance of the knowledge industry as it relates to economic development manifests itself in a variety of ways. Domestic enterprises faced with stiff international competition, require

increasing numbers of persons with high levels of ability in finance, marketing and engineering. In a world of even greater mobility of goods, capital and technology, Ontario's ability to attract investment, will depend increasingly on the availability of human resources and knowledge. The internationalization of markets puts a premium on an interdisciplinary tapestry of skills that includes knowledge of foreign languages, history, the natural sciences, economics, and social and political customs.

As all sectors attempt to pull together in the revitalization of Ontario's economic development, public policy with respect to post-secondary education is increasingly being driven by two major forces. The first is the need to re-instill excellence in the college and university systems. The second is the need to strengthen the ability of the two systems to respond to changing social, economic and technological requirements, as well as their ability to promote change and assist society in its adjustment to change.

Excellence and change must be equal partners in the development of Ontario's post-secondary system.

Le système d'enseignement post-secondaire de l'Ontario doit viser autant l'excellence que le changement.

Against the need to realize the twin goals of excellence and adaptation to change, the new government of Ontario recognizes that the ability of the province's post-secondary institutions to pursue them has been seriously eroded by a number of factors, not the least of which has been a decade of underfunding. Upon being appointed Minister of Colleges and Universities last June, I was informed that Ontario, once a leader in post-secondary financing, had dropped to ninth among the 10 provinces in per capita post-secondary expenditures.

Until recently, the Ontario student assistance program, the cornerstone of Ontario's financial accessibility commitment, had been diluted to the point where it was an inadequate reflection of the student's real costs and of the level of the student's real resources. In addition, it has become clear that the program requires significant change to meet the diverse needs of a number of groups, including adult learners, part-time students, and northern Ontarians.

While, over the past 10 years, student-teacher ratios escalated dramatically, at the same time budgets for physical plant and such vital student requirements as libraries and equipment were persistently squeezed. Further, the system has not experienced a healthy infusion of new teaching staff. If mandatory retirement is eliminated, the number of openings for young faculty could conceivably be even smaller. As a sign of troubled times, Ontario's college system last year faced its first teachers' strike and universities have weathered too many strikes by faculty, support staff and teaching assistants.

In respect of the amount of money that has been made available for such activities, the accomplishments of Ontario's universities in the areas of research and development have been impressive, but the amount of money itself has been anything but impressive. Ontario has been part of Canada's dismal performance in research and development, performance that at 1.3 per cent of the gross national product, is significantly below that achieved by other developed countries.

10:20 a.m.

At the same time as Ontario's 44 post-secondary institutions, representing 22 universities and related institutions and 22 community colleges of applied arts and technology, have been battling an erosion of funding, they are being expected to accommodate a growing adult population with new and distinct needs. For instance, in 1985-86, 185,961 university and 114,328 college students were enrolled full-time in Ontario's post-secondary institutions. The number of part-time university students was 97,416 during the same period while the latest figures for the colleges show 645,000 part-time course registrations.

While the province's post-secondary system requires an infusion of funds to meet the demands of a changing society, it faces the likelihood of steadily decreasing transfer payments from the federal government.

The federal government has indicated publicly that by the year 1991, Ontario is expected to lose approximately \$750 million a year in established programs financing transfers. As the Premier stated at the first ministers' conference in Halifax last November:

"For Ontario...that sum would cover the operating expenditures of York, Queen's, McMaster, Western and Laurentian Universities. That represents education for over 75,000 students on a full-time basis."

Any major reduction in the EPF transfers could seriously undermine Ontario's ability to fund its colleges and universities at a desirable level. The significance of this action was underscored by the Premier at the same first ministers' conference when he added:

"The importance of our post-secondary education system cannot be over-emphasized. We face a world-scale explosion of new technologies. The key to trade and competitiveness, to agriculture, to manufacturing, to energy, to services—indeed, to improved efficiency in government—is in developing skills and upgrading our work force. Investment in the education of our young people lies at the foundation of our ability to do this...It is totally counterproductive, therefore, for the federal government to cut post-secondary education funding."

Clearly, there is a responsibility falling on governments at the federal and provincial levels, on the colleges and universities themselves and on students and faculty to work towards the revitalization of our post-secondary system. This is a responsibility which, if not met by all parties, promises at its most fundamental level to bring serious harm to Ontario's economy and society.

Certain government initiatives have been taken since June 1985. Since assuming office in June 1985, this government has acted swiftly and firmly to reverse the decay that has been eating at the foundation of our post-secondary system.

Members will recall that in July, the Instructional Assignment Review Committee, known as the Skolnik committee, submitted its report, which concluded, among other things, that excessive faculty work load is a problem in the college system.

Since then, a number of steps have been taken to respond to the problems highlighted by the Skolnik report. The major area of focus has been the search for positive solutions to the problem of faculty work load at the colleges. As part of the collective bargaining negotiations between the Ontario Council of Regents and the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union for the 1985-86 school year, I and my officials urged the parties involved to include the issue of faculty work load at the bargaining table. We also encouraged both parties to try to agree on local mechanisms for identifying and working out solutions to the work load problems at individual colleges.

A number of other steps were also taken to update and revitalize Ontario's college system. Specifically, first, the formula that is used to allocate funding to colleges is being reviewed on

a priority basis by the College Funding Review Committee. This committee, representing college presidents, the Council of Regents and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities was also asked to examine the distribution of money for capital needs in light of various pressures, including those identified in the Skolnik report. The committee is expected to report in a couple of months.

Secondly, responding to one of the most serious concerns raised by Professor Skolnik, I recently appointed an independent adviser, Walter Pitman, to make recommendations with respect to the governance of the colleges and the college system. Mr. Pitman has been asked to examine the interest and roles of students, faculty, administrators, governors, regents and the ministry and to develop ways of bringing about a more effective interaction of the parties and better overall governance of the college system. It is expected the work of Mr. Pitman will be completed in the spring. I make no reference here to moons or half moons.

Upon completion of the current round of negotiations, I intend to launch an evaluation of the collective bargaining system in place for the community colleges. The objective will be to propose changes that might improve the operation of that system.

These measures are in addition to the ongoing work of the Advisory Committee on the Effectiveness of Governance of Ontario's College System, constituted by the previous government last spring to prepare a process of review and to implement means of improving overall institutional effectiveness on a college-by-college basis. A draft paper focusing on college operational reviews has been distributed to college executive heads for discussion. It is expected that a formal policy memorandum will be distributed to the colleges in the spring.

En octobre dernier, le trésorier (M. Nixon) et moi-même avons été très heureux d'annoncer à l'Assemblée législative la décision du gouvernement de créer deux fonds d'excellence, soit le Fonds pour l'excellence dans les universités et le Fonds pour l'excellence dans les collèges, qui totaliseront \$80 millions durant la prochaine année financière. Par l'entremise du Fonds pour l'excellence dans les universités, \$50 millions seront alloués en 1986-87 pour la mise à jour des acquisitions des bibliothèques, l'intensification de la recherche et la nomination de nouveaux professeurs dans les universités ontariennes. Le Conseil ontarien des affaires universitaires m'in-

diquera sous peu la façon dont le fonds sera réparti.

Par ailleurs, des subventions spéciales d'immobilisations, qui s'élèveront à \$9.5 millions, seront allouées en plus des subventions régulières d'immobilisations de \$10.5 millions que le ministère a accordées aux universités.

Le Fonds pour l'excellence dans les universités constitue une étape importante dans le processus de revivification de nos universités. Il permettra l'infusion de sang neuf au sein du corps enseignant, l'achat de matériel de recherche et d'expérimentation, l'emploi de personnel de soutien à la recherche formé de spécialistes très compétents dans le domaine technique et l'achat de matériel scientifique, d'équipement de laboratoire, d'ordinateurs, de matériel de bibliothèque et d'autre matériel d'enseignement de conception récente.

The college excellence fund has been created to improve the delivery of programs in colleges. In 1986-87, \$10 million is being applied to the purchase of instructional equipment of direct benefit to students and \$6.5 million in capital support is being used for renovation or expansion of teaching facilities in the colleges. As I mentioned earlier, the college funding review committee is developing recommendations on how the college excellence fund should be distributed to colleges.

The government has moved to revise the trend toward erosion of funds provided by the Ontario student assistance program. In his budget of October 24, the Treasurer announced that funding for OSAP would be increased to \$145.8 million in 1986-87 from \$77 million in 1978-79. The increase for 1986-87 is eight per cent compared with 5.9 per cent in 1985-86.

10:30 a.m.

Over the past seven years, inflation has increased by 74.4 per cent and the increase in applications has been 46 per cent. During the same period, funding for OSAP has increased by only 73.8 per cent. This did not allow the program to deal with both the growth of applications and inflation. Consequently, students have been forced to carry increasingly heavy debt loads in order to complete their post-secondary education.

As you know, last week I informed the Legislature of the details of the substantial enrichment we are making to OSAP in the coming year. These measures should begin to address the kinds of problems I have just mentioned. I view them as a first step towards

what I hope will be a major revitalization of the program.

In the first instance, our priority has been to increase the amount of grants for students from low-income families by reducing the contribution parents are expected to make towards the educational costs of the student. Through increasing the amount of grant, our changes will effectively reduce the amount of loan which students from these families must assume in obtaining a post-secondary education. This means a student attending a university from a family of three children and a total income of \$20,000 will receive \$4,520 in grant assistance, an increase of \$600 or 15.3 per cent compared to the previous year.

In addition, the method of calculating the grant entitlement for married students is being changed to assess more adequately the level of living costs faced by the family. The calculation will also reduce the amount the working spouse has to contribute to the student's educational costs.

Further enrichments to OSAP allow for a four per cent increase for all direct educational costs and allowances, including an increase in the personal and living allowances.

Part-time students and students taking upgrading courses will receive special emphasis through a 33 per cent increase in the Ontario special bursary plan.

The Ontario work study program, which is a cost-shared program with the college or university or other nonprofit agency, is being expanded as well. Its budget will increase by 60 per cent from \$500,000 to \$800,000.

I am very pleased that we have been able to make these changes to OSAP, particularly as I believe the program is a foundation for the principle of financial accessibility to post-secondary education in Ontario. Nevertheless, further work will need to be done to OSAP, both to improve the level of assistance it provides and to make it more responsive to the needs of a changing student population.

À la fin de l'année dernière, j'ai créé un comité consultatif spécial, présidé par le sous-ministre des Collèges et Universités, chargé d'examiner le rôle et les capacités des universités ontariennes dans le domaine de la recherche fondamentale. Ce comité comprend des représentants des universités Queen's, McMaster, York et Laurentienne et des universités de Waterloo, de Windsor et d'Ottawa.

Les recommandations du comité porteront sur les points suivants:

1. Les besoins de l'industrie canadienne en ce qui a trait à la recherche fondamentale axée sur les domaines actuels et futurs de compétition (ce type de recherche est, ou pourrait devenir, une composante de la mission et des activités des universités ontariennes);

2. La capacité des universités ontariennes de satisfaire à ces besoins;

3. L'étendue de la collaboration et de l'appui que le secteur privé peut fournir aux universités dans le domaine de la recherche fondamentale et appliquée et les moyens d'intensifier et d'élargir cette participation;

4. Comment renforcer les domaines clés ou les centres d'excellence existants, ou en créer de nouveaux selon le cas;

5. Où trouver l'appui nécessaire pour la mise en oeuvre du plan proposé, compte tenu, mais non exclusivement, de toutes les possibilités existantes d'appui (quantité et répartition de l'appui y comprises);

6. Les moyens et les méthodes de mise en oeuvre de ce plan.

One of the most crucial requirements demanding our attention is furthering the accessibility of Ontario's post-secondary institutions to traditionally underrepresented groups. We strongly believe all Ontarians should have the opportunity to contribute equitably to the fabric of this province.

As an example of this effort, last September we introduced a program of support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students attending Ontario post-secondary institutions. In conjunction with the Canadian Hearing Society, the ministry is supplying sign language or oral interpreters, notetakers and amplification devices for hearing-impaired students. The program is being phased in over a five-year period at a total cost of approximately \$500,000 with a first-year budget in 1985-86 of \$92,000. In its first year of operation, the program involves institutions in Ottawa and Toronto but will be expanded throughout Ontario as soon as resources and the availability of trained interpreters permit.

An advisory committee composed of representatives of the colleges, universities, users of the service, relevant provincial ministries and the Canadian Hearing Society has been established to advise on program policies, standards of service and future directions of the program.

Another concern we are seeking to address is the underrepresentation of female faculty at Ontario universities. Although the number of doctoral degrees granted to women increased to

26 per cent in 1983 from nine per cent in 1971, the percentage of full-time female university faculty members increased to only 16 per cent from 12 per cent in the same time period. Very few of the top positions at Ontario's post-secondary institutions belong to women, who still mainly occupy lower-paying support jobs.

In conjunction with the office of the minister responsible for women's issues, the employment equity fund has been created for Ontario universities, the Ontario College of Art, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in 1986-87. The program reimburses an institution for up to 75 per cent of the cost of employing a co-ordinator and implementing an employment equity program to a maximum of \$20,000.

Institutions with such a program already in place may not apply for the funds but are eligible for funds covering new employment equity-related activities. An additional \$3,000 is available to institutions to undertake a one-time special project directly related to the implementation of an employment equity program.

To date we have received a very positive response from the eligible institutions, with the majority submitting proposals for the use of the fund.

I have some remarks on future directions. I believe the initiatives I have described go some way towards refurbishing and strengthening Ontario's reputation as a provider of widely accessible post-secondary education of a high calibre. To be frank, we have only just begun.

For instance, it would be less than honest to try to pretend the effects of a decade of government neglect and financial squeezing of our post-secondary system could be eliminated in just a few months. While I believe the steps already taken constitute a good start, there is clearly a task ahead of us in ensuring that our colleges and universities have sufficient resources and that those resources are most effectively utilized.

Among other priority areas commanding our attention is the ability of Ontario's post-secondary system to pursue world-class research and to deliver world-class teaching and training of researchers. The development of the capacity of excellence in both basic and applied research will be an objective of my ministry and the government.

As part of this commitment, we recognize excellence in research or teaching cannot flourish in an atmosphere circumscribed by buildings and equipment that are outdated and, in some cases, in a state of physical decay. Therefore, the issue

of capital funding of our colleges and universities will continue to receive close scrutiny from myself and my officials.

10:40 a.m.

At the same time, I also intend our actions and policy initiatives will reflect the importance I attach to the international component of higher educational activity. The cross-border trade in ideas is, as you know, becoming progressively more influential as a vehicle for developing not only intellectual but also economic links with our partners in international trade and relations. As part of the process of developing Ontario's international education activities, I am reviewing the differential fee policy for foreign students that is currently in effect.

Additionally, I want to reiterate my concern that we must improve communication and co-operation within our borders, that is, between our post-secondary institutions and the private sector, between the institutions and government and amongst the institutions themselves. For one thing, this is a prerequisite to achieving the most effective utilization of human and financial resources. Moreover, strengthened ties between our educational institutions and the private sector promise enormous benefits for research, for the employment prospects of students, for the skills of our labour force and for the international competitiveness and success of our economy generally.

I do not want to imply that strides have not been made towards improving these types of relationships thus far, but now it is our job to build on the efforts already made and to achieve a more co-operative framework for advancing the interests of the post-secondary sector as well as the broader community.

Amongst other specific issues on which my officials and I expect to take action in the coming months, I want to mention three in particular.

The first of these is the question of ancillary or incidental fees. With respect to universities, this matter is currently under review by the Ontario Council on University Affairs, which has been monitoring incidental fees. I am informed that OCUA will be rendering its advice to me on the issue within the next few weeks. With respect to colleges, the issue will be reviewed by the ministry, based on the advice of the Council of Regents.

Volume 2 of the report of the Council of Franco-Ontarian Education on Education and the Needs of Franco-Ontarians brought glaringly to light deficiencies in the availability of post-secondary education to Franco-Ontarians. The

report itself, which amasses an enormous amount of data on the main issues of Franco-Ontarian access to post-secondary education, is an achievement that should not be underrated. Much of the information presented in the report is disturbing, starting with the finding of significantly lower participation of Franco-Ontarians than non-francophones in post-secondary programs.

I believe firmly that it is important to view the situation described in the report as not simply a matter of concern for Franco-Ontarians; rather, it carries implications for the vitality of our society and economy as a whole. Let me assure you that we are giving very serious attention to the matter of access to post-secondary opportunity by Franco-Ontarians and to the design of effective means for remedying related deficiencies in the existing system.

I would like to touch upon one final issue, and that is the transfer of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to the University of Toronto, as announced in the budget statement of October 24. At present, the two institutions operate under an affiliation agreement whereby OISE students are granted University of Toronto degrees.

The government's position rests on the basic premise that those who learn and those who teach in our schools will be best served by the amalgamation of the two institutions. We believe the most effective amalgamation of the two institutions will be under a unified structure of governance and common administration with the University of Toronto. This will permit an enrichment of the academic, research and service functions of both institutions through a pooling of the resources now available to each institution.

It is our hope that OISE and the University of Toronto will work together on a plan for joining the two institutions. In order to facilitate this, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), on behalf of the government, has indicated that we are prepared to delay the timing of the financial integration. In the meantime, the current affiliation agreement between OISE and the University of Toronto is, I understand, likely to be extended.

The issues I have outlined above are just some of those faced by the government as we seek to define the future directions of post-secondary education in Ontario. Despite the constraints of the last decade, Ontario's colleges and universities retain a strong base for significantly expanding the role of education in this province. The following illustrates ways in which the colleges

of applied arts and technologies and universities are broadening their focus:

Bioengineering technology programs at Algonquin College; nuclear mechanical engineering technology at Seneca College; robotics at Centennial, Canadore, Durham, Fanshawe and Sir Sandford Fleming colleges; Northwest Enterprise Centre at Confederation College; and innovation centres at 12 colleges and eight universities.

There is a highly acclaimed film animation program at Sheridan College—one of their productions, *Charades*, won an Academy Award last spring. Ryerson has established a program in aerospace technology. Waterloo has added a program in physiological optics. York University has developed a research program in strategic studies to examine Canadian national defence and Canada's place in the international scene.

York has also initiated WISH, which stands for women into science, hopefully, to encourage female high school students to enter the field of science. Wilfrid Laurier has created a research centre for management of technology to meet the needs of business managers confronted with the microchip revolution and other fast-paced new technologies. McMaster was instrumental in producing the Terry Fox running prosthesis, which included the addition of a sophisticated pneumatic knee and other modular components.

Post-secondary institutions have a responsibility not only to keep up with the times but to anticipate the needs of the future, but they cannot do it alone.

Without our recognition of the value of higher education and a fresh commitment to provide sufficient support, our colleges and universities will be unable to engage in the pursuit of excellence and serve as agents of positive change. With sufficient resources well deployed, however, the post-secondary sector has proven that it has the capacity to make major contributions to and be at the forefront of society's intellectual, social, cultural and economic life.

H. G. Wells once wrote, "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe". Hyperbole? Perhaps, but surely no one can doubt the critical importance of the post-secondary sector in shaping our collective future. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. McFadden, have you some remarks?

Mr. McFadden: Yes. Like the minister, these are the first estimates I have had an opportunity to participate in as a critic. That makes us two rookies both playing here today. My friend the

member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) is an old hand at this, but the minister and I are starting afresh.

It is quite daunting to be sitting here by myself. The minister is here not only with his own prodigious talents available, but also his veritable army of advisers and experts with their briefcases bulging and their briefing books sitting there all set to answer all questions and defuse any attacks. I must say, it is a dirty job, but someone has to do it and I guess it falls to me this morning.

Mr. Chairman: Carry on.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. McFadden: Initially I would like to give the committee some background on my approach to the colleges and universities area and my essential philosophy towards it and turn in a preliminary way to matters that concern me; then in the course of the day, we may be able to explore these matters more fully.

There is no area of activity in Ontario society more underestimated in its importance to the future wellbeing of our province than our colleges and universities. It is safe to say that in terms of press attention and general level of understanding and appreciating colleges and universities, what goes on there and their future importance to our society and economy, there is relatively little appreciation or importance given.

Over the years, our system of post-secondary education has made a unique and vital contribution to the social, political, economic and cultural life of Ontario. Ontario's network of universities and community colleges, which have developed essentially over the period since the Second World War and particularly over the past 25 years, offers to students opportunities for securing a first-class higher education and a range of course options unparalleled anywhere.

As our society heads rapidly into the post-industrial era and the rate of change accelerates, it is fairly clear that the role which higher education plays will become increasingly important and critical. As important as these institutions are now, I think in the next 10 to 20 years they are going to play an even more critical and central role.

It is said by many that Ontario today is in midst of a revolution that rivals the industrial revolution of the last century. Between now and the end of this century, the people of Ontario will be facing many profound and difficult challenges. We are going to be forced to rely on our educational system to help us meet and overcome these challenges.

It is clear to anybody looking at the state of the world economy that Ontario must maintain and expand the world-class calibre of its colleges and universities. I strongly endorse the comments of the minister with regard to that. Our post-secondary institutions must not just help us to keep pace with innovations in science and technology; they must be in a position for us to lead the way in the world.

Because of the nature of Ontario's economy, this province may face greater challenges in the near future than any other part of Canada. Historically, Ontario has relied on the natural resource sector and lately on the manufacturing sector as engines for economic growth and development. With the rapid growth of the developing world as a source of cheap raw materials and the emergence of the Pacific Rim as an industrial giant, we will be facing very fierce competition in both these traditional sectors of growth.

Technical and scientific innovations will be necessary to keep Ontario's economy strong and competitive in the new world situation. We must find better and more efficient methods of production. Various technology centres established throughout the province and the various programs at universities and community colleges which the minister touched on are an indication of the kind of work that is going into that.

Ontario must move rapidly to secure a position on the leading edge of technological innovation, not in the trail of it, if we are to meet the challenge presented by our competitors throughout the world. For example, we will have to develop far faster in robotics and computer-integrated production in manufacturing. This cannot be done without the kind of scientific and intellectual base provided by our universities.

It is clear, however, that increasingly Ontarians are finding work outside the manufacturing and the resource sectors. As we evolve into a knowledge-based society, a higher percentage of people are, and will be, employed in the service sector. While much of this service sector is strictly local in character, a significant part can be exported.

We have the example of Canadian management consultants providing services to governments and corporations in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. We have the example of Canadian engineers constructing dams and being involved with the design and construction of power projects in Asia and other parts of the world. We have the example of doctors setting up

and managing hospitals in the Middle East and elsewhere.

If we are to survive, let alone prosper, in the kind of knowledge-based world we are heading towards today, we will have to develop the kind of intellectual and mental capital that a university is ideally suited to provide. In particular, we must ensure that our colleges and universities have the capacity for world class research and development in both pure and applied science and technology. I would agree with the minister's comments with regard to that.

We cannot expect others to create and develop these things because fundamentally we have to be looking at ideas, processes, patents and systems that are ideally suited to the needs of Ontario. We are the ones with the knowledge of our needs. We have a responsibility to see that those needs are met.

I am very concerned when I read about the position taken by the federal government since the early 1980s—that Canada can substantially rely on basic research from abroad. That is a dangerous position for us to take. What we are essentially saying is that the intellectual thrust in other parts of the world will decide the intellectual thrust in this country and the innovations we will become involved in. That is dangerous and it is not a policy that should be followed in this province.

Increased research and development at our educational institutions should have a distinctive Ontario flavour where possible. Clearly that is not always possible because so much of learning is of an international nature, but certainly the focus could have an Ontario flavour in a number of respects. In order to achieve that, I would suggest it is essential that greater links be developed between our business community and the educational community in order to provide the local focus innovation is going to need if we are to be successful in the world market.

Once the innovations have been developed, we must be in a position to have a trained work force to apply the innovations in a productive fashion. There is little practical sense in developing innovative technologies, for example, if we have no capacity to implement them. That would lead to a situation where the jobs and the economic growth that might develop from those innovations would take place in other countries of the world.

One of the inevitable byproducts of innovation and change we are going to be facing, which the universities hope to be in the vanguard of dealing with, will be the whole area of job dislocation.

We will therefore need our community colleges and universities, not just as a source of initial learning as they have been traditionally, but essentially to provide a base of knowledge and skill that will last a full lifetime. To an increasing extent, we are going to have to look at our colleges and universities as an integral and ongoing facet of our lives, through ongoing continuing education programs. It is going to be important that these continuing education programs be easily and readily accessible to working men and women, let alone those who might find themselves in a position where their jobs might become redundant.

Over the coming years, we can expect that individuals will not only have to undergo retraining in their chosen field or vocation, but also that they may have to change occupations one or more times during their lifetime. We are therefore going to constantly need the availability of facilities at our universities and community colleges for further training, for retraining and for continuing education.

11 a.m.

One of the matters that is going to require greater attention is the whole area of adult education and the adaptability of our institutions to accommodate the adult student. Furthermore, the whole area of part-time students is an issue. In many cases, the part-time students are not provided with the kind of first-class facilities and services provided for the full-time student. Yet the education those part-time students are securing is equally as valid and as important. I think that requires some very careful study and review on the part of the universities and colleges involved.

I also hope the education system will help us to cope with the social implications of the many changes going on around us. It is obviously a goal of the universities to do research and development involving the most modern processes science and technology can develop. That is a useful and necessary goal for universities, but it seems to me that the universities and colleges have an equally important role in society, in helping us as a society to interpret, manage and cope with the changes going on around us. Many of the change processes and technologies will have major social impacts and I hope the universities and colleges will play a major and continuing role in developing that.

I am concerned that to a substantial extent, our thrust in thinking about future planning on the university campus is oriented towards research and development, how the universities can relate

to industry, how we can better our position in the job market and so on. That is all very important and I am not minimizing it. It is absolutely essential from an economic point of view. My worry is that precious little focus in all this debate is going into the social implications and social impact and how we can deal with that. I would like to urge that more attention be directed towards that, as significant social problems could develop unless we are prepared to come to grips with it all.

There are many examples of areas where this could come into play. One of the things that is likely to develop in years to come is increased leisure time. There is going to be the problem of job dislocation. As well, there is a major challenge we are facing as an aging population. What do the universities have to say about that? Will the universities to an increasing extent become institutions where the elderly might play a role and participate more actively. We have to look at the social impacts and come to grips with those over the long run.

I am certain few would disagree with the goals I have mentioned, but I suppose it is in the area of choosing the path we might follow that there might be some difficulty and controversy. I would like to touch on some of the paths I have discerned in recent months and make some mention of those.

There are two immediate concerns I would like to address since they raise some major issues. Those are the planned transfer of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to the University of Toronto and the proposed closure of the school of architecture at the University of Toronto.

Most people in the education field recognize that OISE represents a very major part of the education system in this province. It is the kind of institution we should be creating more of, an institution with a world class reputation, with a capacity to break new ground and expand horizons within its disciplines, and with an ability to train people to implement innovations. The history of OISE is filled with notable achievements. OISE has developed into a symbol of the pursuit of excellence and the very goals we should be pursuing in higher education.

It would seem to me the budget proposal announced by the Treasurer last fall provides a classic example of trying to fix something that is not broken. To say the planned transfer came as a surprise is an understatement. Even now, months later, people do not understand why and where it came from. It would appear on balance that the

whole concept arose mainly from the Treasurer. It would seem he is virtually a one-man interest group to keep this going ahead.

The suddenness with which the plan of the Treasurer burst upon the education horizon was and is complicated by his inability to explain exactly why this was included in the budget. The stated reason in the budget was the elimination of duplication. After a discussion of the social development committee with officials of OISE and the University of Toronto, it was discerned from their testimony that no duplications of program and approach were identified. The president of the University of Toronto said OISE was a unique, first-class institution. The only area even touched upon as a potential area of duplication related in some modest way to administration. The University of Toronto said it was not even sure it could achieve any savings in that area but if there were savings, they would be of a very small nature.

At the same time, the Treasurer appeared at OISE and talked about the proposed transfer as part of a plan for rationalization. This announcement raised more questions than it answered. What form is this rationalization to take? How will it be achieved? Is the transfer of OISE all there is to the need for rationalization or is there more to come? Does the Treasurer himself have a plan to implement some form of policy of rationalization? Is that plan a plan of the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) or is it a plan of the Treasury?

I note on page 16 that the minister made a very good point. He said we must improve communication and co-operation within our borders between our post-secondary institutions and the private sector, between institutions and government and between institutions themselves. The whole incident of the proposed transfer of OISE to the University of Toronto runs totally and completely in the face of that policy direction. There was no communication or co-operation between OISE and the government on this matter. What is even more serious in my view, a serious rupture has now developed between OISE and the University of Toronto and between OISE and the faculty of education at the University of Toronto, which runs clearly in the face of the important objective of improving communication and co-operation.

I am interested in knowing the minister's view on this. Does he have any further thoughts to share with us with regard to this particular issue?

In my view, OISE has served this province more than well. It has developed into a world-

class institution for research and development, let alone teaching. There is no reason to expect that transferring this institution to the University of Toronto will do anything to improve this capacity. In fact, based on what we have seen in recent weeks with the uncertainty in the faculty and the refusal of a couple of outstanding people even to come to the institute, indications of exactly the opposite are starting to occur. I worry about the future of OISE as a result of this. I also raise some questions as to what this indicates about the government's agenda.

11:10 a.m.

Recent events at the University of Toronto have fuelled fears over the wisdom of transferring OISE to that university. Personally, I am of two minds on this whole question of the closure of the school of architecture as announced by the president of the university. I do not know whether to interpret it as an example of a dramatic solution to internal problems or an example of rationalization of the type we can expect in the months and years to come.

Regardless of the motivation behind the proposed closure of the school, the act itself raises questions. The school of architecture is old and established. In the year in which its closure is proposed, it will be celebrating its 100th anniversary, as I understand it. That will be quite a double holiday. They will have a 100th anniversary and close the doors at the same time.

Over the years, the school has produced many excellent architects, who currently serve this province. It has had problems in recent years with its faculty and administration. The serious internal difference of opinion boiled up recently with the boycott supported by not only the students but the faculty.

The disturbing thing, though, is that the school of architecture at the University of Toronto is one of only three such schools in Ontario. It is the only one to offer post-graduate training. This closing seems somewhat anomalous when it is remembered that Toronto is the home base for a large part of the architectural, engineering, construction and development industries in Canada.

Indeed, according to the Ontario Association of Architects, 60 per cent of Ontario's architects practise their profession in Toronto. It would seem to me, therefore, sound educational policy that a professional school should be located in the city where the profession is substantially located.

I know the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the minister have declined to intervene because budget planning administration is the prerogative

of the University of Toronto. As the minister will know, the city has established a committee to try to save the school.

If the closure of the school of architecture goes ahead as planned—and from my discussions with the university it appears that the administration is determined that it go ahead—the ministry will have to give priority to ensuring that the quality of education for the students remaining in the school is protected during the balance of their program.

If the closure goes ahead, in many ways the students who are going to be sitting in that school over the four-year closure period are going to be effectively on an academic death row. You can imagine the atmosphere of gloom and the lack of intellectual energy that will exist in that school during the closure period. You have to wonder by the fourth year how many faculty will be left and what kind of standard of education these students will be getting.

I, therefore, call upon the ministry to monitor carefully the academic situation in the faculty and ensure that the students' education is not imperilled. The ministry has an interest in there because provincial funding goes towards meeting the education costs of those students.

If the proposed closure goes ahead and the quality of education of the students appears to be threatened, I urge the ministry to intervene in the public interest. At the very least, I ask the ministry to ensure that places are made available in the other two schools of architecture in Ontario for the students of the University of Toronto if it is found that the education to be provided to them is threatened in any way by deterioration of instruction at the University of Toronto.

I know this is an unusual step, but I hope the ministry can have discussions and at least bring moral suasion to ensure that places would be open at the other two schools if the students at the University of Toronto wish to move, if their quality of education is being threatened.

The Premier and the minister have said in response to the school of architecture situation that the government is fundamentally there to serve as a funding source for post-secondary education—perhaps to set some overall policy directions, but essentially to have a relatively passive role, limited mainly simply to planning and co-ordination.

I was reading a recent paper delivered by Dr. Connell of the University of Toronto, who said that of all jurisdictions around the world, the province of Ontario has probably intervened the least of any major jurisdiction in terms of what

goes on at the various campuses and how the money is spent and so on. I can understand the Premier and the minister saying they do not want to interfere but will leave it to the University of Toronto and if it chooses to close the school of architecture, fine.

What I cannot understand is how, at the same time, the Treasurer takes the position that he should intervene directly and transfer OISE to the University of Toronto. I hope that what will come out of this is a real examination of the appropriate role of the province with regard to education planning at the post-secondary level so that we have some consistency here.

One of the continuing issues in this area is the linking of supply of graduates with the demand for their services. I notice that was not covered in the minister's comments. Yet there has been a lot of concern expressed over the years about the role of education in preparing people for their ultimate job.

Over the years there have been many examples of the boom-and-bust periods within different occupational groups. One that readily comes to mind is the nursing profession. A few years ago Ontario schools were producing a glut of nurses. Many of these individuals educated in Ontario at the taxpayers' expense were forced to leave the province to find employment in their chosen field in other provinces and other countries. Luckily, the situation has changed and nurses are back in demand again.

We are now in the midst of reliving this experience in other fields. For many years now, more people have been graduating from faculties of education than there have been jobs for them to fill. Large numbers of teachers, it is expected, will be retiring in the early 1990s because of the natural ageing process that has been taking place within, for example, the secondary and primary school systems.

If things are not addressed, it would appear that by the early 1990s we may not be producing enough teachers to meet the potential demand in our primary and secondary schools. I am curious to know what the minister feels his role is in planning in that area, in developing labour market forecasts, helping our institutions to react to these forecasts, evaluating their reactions and determining how effective the responses of these institutions have been to the forecasts.

There is a real question here of academic freedom, the ability of anybody to receive an education in his chosen field. That is an approach that I feel is quite important, and I am curious to see what the minister's views may be.

11:20 a.m.

Another area of concern is the question of the federal cutbacks, which the minister has already commented on. I am interested to hear from the minister what he proposes to do with the established programs financing and whether 100 per cent of the funds received from Ottawa will be going to our post-secondary institutions.

I am also interested to know the minister's response to the recommendations of the Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario. While the Premier has been quite explicit in the past in rejecting the recommendation of Bovey on tuition fee increases, and while some of Bovey's recommendations were acted on by the Conservative government prior to its defeat in the House and are now being further acted on by the present government, there are many other recommendations in the Bovey report that have not been addressed. I am interested to hear anything further the minister wishes to say on that subject.

At the community college level, we have the report of the Instructional Assignment Review Committee, which came out in July. Various studies have been initiated and a task force and advisers appointed. I will be very interested to hear today the minister's response on the local autonomy of the community colleges and recommendations on collective bargaining units.

These are a few of the topics I wish to raise. I hope we may have a dialogue on them today. As I said at the outset, the province faces many challenges in the near future and our post-secondary education system will play an increasingly pivotal role in helping us successfully surmount those challenges. We must undertake the plans today to prepare us for that future. We need not only a clear idea of where we are going, but a detailed plan of how we are going to get there. I would hope we could involve this House and the broader community in these discussions.

While we may all agree on the goals we wish to achieve, I am interested in examining the path the minister intends to follow in achieving them.

Ms. Bryden: Since this is the first estimates session where the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is sponsored by the new minister, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on attaining the high office of a minister of the crown in the new Liberal government. I may say there might not have been a new Liberal government without another election if the New Democratic Party had not facilitated the change of government by signing the accord with the Liberal Party.

Having been a member for the last 10 years, I have seen many ministers of Colleges and Universities come and go. I am pleased at the new minister's willingness to have an open mind, to listen and to consider new ideas. I hope he will draw new ideas during these estimates from the contributions of the critics and the members.

It is a pleasant change from previous Progressive Conservative ministers, who started the disastrous decline in provincial funding for colleges and universities over the past decade, which brought us down to ninth place among the provinces in grants per student for operating costs.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have some papers over your mike there?

Ms. Bryden: I am sorry, I may have.

Mr. Chairman: We cannot record your comments.

Mr. Wiseman: She finds it hard to say some of those words. That is why she is mumbling.

Ms. Bryden: The grants per student in Ontario had dropped to \$5,127 in the last year, 1984-85, compared with the Canadian average of \$5,959, which shows the situation that the decade of underfunding had brought us.

The matter was made worse by the fact that during that decade a large portion of the federal EPF grants were diverted to purposes other than post-secondary education, even though the original concept of EPF was a system of matching grants between the province and the federal government.

I am told students paid more for their contribution to post-secondary education in 1984-85 than did the Ontario government because the contribution of the Ontario government dropped to about six per cent. The rest of the money was federal grants. I know this was discussed in the election campaign as well and the promise was made that stealing from post-secondary grants would cease, that the federal grants would be dedicated to post-secondary education as intended under the original arrangements but which had been allowed to become block grants, leaving the decision to the province where to spend them.

Underfunding has left our post-secondary institutions with perilous conditions of having an ageing faculty with little new blood able to be recruited, an ageing and undermaintained physical plant, starved library facilities, obsolete equipment and an increase of about 25 per cent in student-faculty ratios since 1970. In addition, universities suffered a freeze on capital expendi-

tures except for emergency renovations or repairs. New facilities and programs were refused. It has left our institutions in some cases unable to accept federal research grants because of lack of operating funds to provide the labs and plant needed for research projects.

While I realize one cannot overcome a 10-year deficiency in funding overnight, I am disappointed that the fall budget of the new Treasurer promised an increase in operating grants for 1986-87 only commensurate with the current cost-of-living increase of about four per cent. There is no provision for catch-up in this promise; nor did the Treasurer promise to stop siphoning federal transfers for other programs.

I acknowledge that a few days before the fall budget the new minister announced the establishment of a university excellence fund for 1986-87, which will provide an extra \$50 million in special grants to universities and related institutions. I recognize this is not in the 1985-86 estimates before us, but I think it is relevant to this debate as an indication of the direction of ministerial funding policy. The excellence funds were earmarked for faculty renewal, \$10 million; research equipment facilities and technical staff, \$15 million; libraries and state-of-the-art instructional equipment, \$25 million.

Community colleges hoped to receive at least an equivalent amount of excellence funds, but got only about half of a further \$30 million announced by the Treasurer in the fall budget. They need excellence funds equally as much as universities.

11:30 a.m.

Unfortunately, excellence funds have been announced as a one-shot grant for 1986-87. If new staff are to be recruited and given some assurance they will be there after the first year's contract, \$10 million for faculty renewal will not go very far and will require a recurring long-term grant. I think we must get a commitment from the minister that the excellence funds will be continued for at least five years if the universities are to be able to plan their acquisitions on the basis of the kind of money needed to rehabilitate university facilities, both physical and intellectual, to the standard they lost during those 10 years.

The post-secondary institutions welcomed the excellence fund announcement as a first step toward meeting their accumulated needs. However, we have to face it that if there is no commitment to a continuation of these funds, that will be an indication the minister's policy is one of crisis management rather than a reversal in funding policy along the lines recommended by

the Bovey commission. Incidentally, increased funding as recommended by the Bovey commission is another Liberal election promise yet to be implemented.

Mr. Wiseman: Was that not in the accord?

Ms. Bryden: The accord does not specifically deal with post-secondary education except to the extent of skills training, which was considered at the time to be the most vital need in the educational field. However, there is no reason why post-secondary education should not be an integral part of our priorities.

Mr. Wiseman: Why did you not put it in?

Mr. Chairman: You should let the honourable member finish her statement and then—

Mr. Wiseman: What was the content of those two opening paragraphs that just changed the tone all around.

Mr. Chairman: Wait until the statement is finished, Mr. Wiseman.

Ms. Bryden: It is being put forward as part of our requirements in these estimates.

Bovey came out with his report in May 1985. That called for \$55 million to be added annually to base operating grants and \$36 million annually for construction and research equipment, plus a capital fund of \$46 million. Capital funding of \$50 million was a Liberal election promise and it has not been met.

Neither the previous Progressive Conservative government nor the new Liberal government has taken a position on the Bovey commission's recommendations. However, recent events such as the University of Toronto's announcement that it is considering closing down its faculty of architecture indicate that at least the University of Toronto is in serious financial trouble from underfunding. It is not the only one.

I recognize that closing the faculty of architecture is still in the recommendation stage and that a position paper is being prepared for the governing council on the issue. It disturbs me that the letter from the provost, Ms. Foley, at the time of the announcement of the recommended closing, stated that the report being prepared will recommend the closing after considering the feasibility of finding the resources needed to maintain the faculty. It seems as though the position paper will hardly be anything more than a justification for the decision announced by the president.

There has been no public input into that decision up to this point, whether by faculty, students, the general public or the profession, which I understand is deeply concerned at the

loss of a faculty of education in the major city in Canada where architectural development, design and activities are carried on.

The decision or recommendation regarding the faculty of architecture adds fuel to the fears expressed by the administration, faculty and students of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education that the transfer proposed by the Treasurer of OISE to the U of T will subject it to the same treatment or to serious funding cutbacks to serve the other needs of the university.

They fear they will not be able to carry out their mandate of research, outreach and graduate training, along with development and expansion of the faculty of education within the university, if they are subjected to arbitrary decisions based on other needs of the university, and not on the maintenance of the programs they have had 20 years' experience in delivering. I understand their concern. When asked to negotiate with the University of Toronto for an affiliation agreement, which they must have, they have no bargaining power about maintenance of programs, budget, autonomy over the budget or their future relationship with the faculty of education at the university.

In my opinion, the only way to ensure development of the kind of professional school for the whole province that we need at the OISE level is to provide it with degree-granting powers and its own budget, which would be under the control of the Ministry of Education but not under the control of the University of Toronto. Since the U of T has found it cannot maintain at least one of its own professional schools with its present funding, how can it develop the faculty of education into a new and better professional school with that constraint?

When questions were asked in the Legislature regarding the proposed closedown of the faculty of architecture, the minister and provincial Treasurer appeared to take an ostrich-like stance that universities are autonomous and must make their own choices as to where to cut back.

Is there not a real public interest in the maintenance of a faculty of architecture in the largest city where the profession is practised and where Ontario residents are provided with the training needed to participate in that profession? Is it not a provincial responsibility to see that students have opportunities to be trained in that profession in Ontario in a centre where they can draw on a highly distinguished profession for visiting lecturers and can see the developments occurring right in their own city as part of their course? Otherwise, the answer may be the

importation of foreign-trained architects for our building and professional firms in Toronto and Ontario, and if we use foreign-trained students there will not be Canadian content to the extent we would like to see.

11:40 a.m.

I want to draw the minister's attention to another example of the serious effects of underfunding on universities. Last fall I visited Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. I met a number of graduate students in the faculty of psychology. A great many had been drawn from southern Ontario to take their graduate training in psychology at Lakehead because the calendar of courses indicated a wide diversity of courses was available for graduate students, and that possibly teaching assistantships would be available to help them fund their course. Therefore, they made the move to apply to Lakehead and take up residence there, and this exchange of southerners studying in the north while many northerners come to the south for post-graduate training is a good thing.

However, when they got there, they found the calendar was a case of what might be called false advertising. A lot of the courses that had attracted them were not being offered that year or might be offered only every other year or every third year, which might not fit in with their plans. In addition, the courses did not always jibe with their other courses, so they had to pick and choose between them and could not get the training they had thought they were going to get. Once they had sunk their funds into moving north and enrolling there, it was difficult for them to move out again. Opportunities were closed in other institutions and they could get only a partial refund of their fees.

They also found that the working conditions were abominable. Most of them had teaching assistantships and they were given one large room with a table in the middle as the place where they could work, mark papers and counsel students, which was part of their job. They had no place where they could lock anything up or leave their work and there was no privacy to deal with students. They did not even have toilet facilities or running water nearby.

I have seldom met a more frustrated group of eager young students trying to obtain a graduate degree in a very important field of education. They felt they had been completely let down.

They went to the dean of graduate studies and finally went to the president of the university and said: "These conditions are inhumane. We are not able to obtain our chosen education because

the calendar has misled us. You should be offering the courses you advertised." The answer they got was: "I am sorry. We cannot afford it. Underfunding has prevented us providing these courses on the basis promised in the calendar and we have no space to provide you with offices, rooms or even a corner where you can lock things up." That was a rather shocking example of what underfunding is doing.

I now want to speak briefly about the establishment of the ad hoc advisory committee on basic research last fall. We all recognize that research is basic to any university. However, what the ministry means by the term "basic" has been challenged. In his press release, the minister talks about research that can be applied in any area of industry. It would appear that basic research that produces the knowledge to expand programs and develop applied research is not what that committee has in mind.

There was also considerable concern about the way this program was conceived. There appears to have been a secret meeting of a handpicked group of university presidents and chairmen from about five universities—Toronto, Queen's, Western Ontario, McMaster and Waterloo—in October to plan the program. Then in the November 21 announcement, the ad hoc committee that was to draw up the program covered only seven institutions in all. It appears that not the entire university community was consulted about this plan and that research was directed mainly to the seven institutions that were appointed to the ad hoc committee.

I also notice that, according to the press release, the ad hoc committee that was to draw up the terms under which these grants were to be made was to report on January 20. Does the minister know if it has reported yet?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We did not say which January 20. Perhaps I will answer that in my reply to the member's comments.

Ms. Bryden: What concerns me about the terms of reference for the ad hoc committee is that they talk about the need for research to make us more competitive, to meet the needs of Canadian industry, to work with the private sector and to develop new centres of excellence, most of which I agree with. I am worried about the stress on research with the private sector to meet the needs of Canadian industry, because that is strictly applied research, and the lack of stress on what is known as basic research, which needs to precede applied research.

In regard to working with the private sector, presumably there is to be a soliciting of funds.

This is one means of increasing university funding and the opportunity to do more research. However, there is no suggestion in the guidelines that it should be worked out who gets the fruits of this research, who will have control of any patents developed and who will be able to set up manufacturing facilities? Will any of the benefits flow back to the people of Ontario? On what terms will funding be accepted from the private sector? Will it have considerable say in the program or will the determination of program be by a university-based committee?

These are all important questions that need to be answered before we rush into a sharing of research development programs with the private sector, to ensure that the people of Ontario share in the expenditures of money in this area and programs, and that the benefits will not all go to the private sector or be directed only on the lines it wants.

Community colleges are an important part of our educational system, providing an extra dimension to education in the fields of skills and cultural training and training for different kinds of jobs in industry. However, they need additional funding and a funding formula that will encourage their development in meeting new challenges in business and technical fields and in meeting the challenge of potentially increased enrolment, especially in the light of high unemployment. Some have received large increases in enrolment but insufficient funds to meet those needs.

11:50 a.m.

The community college collective bargaining process, as most of us know, has been in a state of crisis since we had a strike a year ago last fall that the government of the time ended by legislation. None of us like to see employees who are trying to settle their differences by collective bargaining legislated back to work. I am afraid there is a danger that we face a similar situation this year if the bargaining now going on does not come to a successful conclusion. Most of us know that the work load problem is the main problem between the two parties. There are also negotiations on wages and improvements in working conditions. The work load problem was left out of the arbitration settlement that was legislated after the strike and it has become a festering sore.

If any of you have read the Skolnik report on that problem which came out in July 1985, you will realize it requires a great many changes in the working conditions and rules, and attitudes. It requires an examination of each kind of

program and its needs to get a fair working load for each of the diversity of courses that are given.

At present, the proposals put forward by the management committee and the union are still far apart. The ideal work load may require some additional staff or funds to be made available to the community colleges. Part of the stalemate on this issue and the possibility of a strike is that, if those funds are not seen to be forthcoming when a satisfactory work load is worked out, there will be an impasse because the colleges have to get their funds from the government. It is a catch-22 situation. If they do not see those funds coming, they will not be able to sign an agreement that would require a lot of additional funds. They cannot fire all their janitors and say this is money for the work load situation.

Therefore, the minister has to consider that very difficult problem and see that there is some assurance that a work load agreement which can be reached and agreed upon is fair and adequately funded.

I was told that one of the offers that came out before Christmas, when analysed by the college teachers, was seen to increase almost everyone's work load substantially. While some people are overworked, others are not. However, this was going to increase almost everybody's work and put it at the breaking point for some of the staff. Then you run into burnout, of which there has been a number of cases, I understand, and problems of that sort. So this is an area where there must be action, and I hope the minister can indicate he is keeping tabs on what will be needed.

I welcome the appointment of Walter Pitman to study the governance of colleges. I think it is time we reviewed the method by which we have two levels of governance—and a sort of buffer committee—the Council of Regents and the boards of governors. Also I hope he will ask Mr. Pitman to look at the question of democratization of college boards.

The University of Toronto has faculty, students and support staff all represented on its board of governors and some other universities do as well. I think it is very rare in community colleges to represent all those interests. Yet today the buzzword is consultation and I think some of those recent happenings at the faculty of architecture and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education indicate that when you do not have adequate consultation, the policies that come out are considered more as ukases, not something that has been thought out and modified. It would be much better if they consulted beforehand.

I want to congratulate the minister for including concern about the need for affirmative action among university and college faculties in his statement. At the university level particularly, women are very much underrepresented in the teaching faculty. As reported in the *Toronto Star*, a recent study at the University of Toronto by the ad hoc committee on the status of women at the university found that the faculty was dominated by men. This is according to a year-long study that was undertaken. The report said, "Women are second-class citizens 101 years after they were first admitted to the school, members of the ad hoc committee on the status of women told the news conference yesterday. 'They are the butt of primitive 50s humour that is still acceptable in many classrooms,' said Pat Staton, a member of the committee."

This report also draws attention to the support staff not receiving adequate wages comparable to the work they do. There was a need for affirmative action there, as well. They also recommend the provision of day care facilities to allow women to have adequate day care so they can carry on a career and, at the same time, fulfil their biological role.

The minister says the directorate is ready to provide a co-ordinator for affirmative action for universities that do not already have one. It will pay 75 per cent of her salary up to \$20,000. This is not adequate because under the directorates program, it is a one-shot deal for one year; the university is supposed to find the money after that.

This cannot be completed in one year. If the universities are as underfunded as they say they are, the chances that they will continue the program are not very great. I think we need a longer term of funding for those co-ordinators. I think they do get a longer term of funding in the municipalities and hospitals where they are also being encouraged. So that is an area with which the minister should be concerning himself.

On the question of the deficiencies in the Ontario student assistance program, which is the major problem with regard to university access these days, I have recently prepared a list of the major problems in that area on which I hope the minister will consider taking action. I know he has made some important changes very recently which include better OSAP treatment of married students and part-time students.

My letter to him, which I sent out last week, contains 15 proposed changes in the OSAP policy. I would like to table it with the committee as an exhibit, if I may, rather than read it all. I

hope it will be the subject for study and action by the minister, because these changes have been long overdue and a general reform of the system is needed to ensure proper access.

12 noon

I am not sure whether the incidental fees are being covered by OSAP. If not, they are really an addition to tuition fees. A tuition fee increase is to be set at four per cent, but it is much more for those who are paying incidental fees. There is a danger that all universities will follow this incidental fee pattern. In such a pattern they are not imposing fees for laboratory time or computer time, but are simply fees to give the university budgeters additional money to spend as they like. There is no guarantee these fees will benefit the individual person who pays them in any specific way beyond maintaining the university as the budgeters see fit. That is an area that must be looked at; in fact, I would have liked the minister to put a moratorium on incidental fees, particularly the kind at the University of Waterloo which are not earmarked for anything, until it is determined whether they are an actual increase in fees. It is hard to envisage they are not if they are not earmarked—it is really a violation of the four per cent ceiling on university fees, which was intended to assure students that at least the minister was interested in maintaining access for low-income and middle-income people.

I hope we will have a thorough reform of the Ontario student assistance program. I ran across a case yesterday in which a woman applied back in August and has not yet received her funds, although I admit there were a couple of mistakes made by her along the way in her application forms. She applied to two institutions and did not notify the first that she was applying to another.

It also partly indicates the lack of clarity in the instructions to students and the need for publication of the criteria on which the various assessments of needs and of parental support required, when it is required, are made.

This woman is studying abroad in Bordeaux and has been there since September, living entirely on what her family can scrape up to cable to her, which is a very expensive way of sending money. She had hoped she would have her OSAP by November at the latest, but as of today, she has not yet got it. They have approved the maximum allowance for her, but she still cannot get it until she picks up a loan form, gets it signed by the university over there and gets it back to a Canadian bank where they will negotiate a loan. It could be another two months at that rate.

Apparently, for foreign students of that sort, the Canadian banks have not agreed to accept applications in their branches in Europe. She either has to get relatives here with power of attorney to negotiate the loan, which takes more time, and then transmit the money by cable or whatever way, or come back herself. I think we should look into that and try to persuade the Canadian Bankers' Association it is not helping students with this sort of rigid rule about where they pick up their money.

Those are some of the areas I hope we will get more opportunity to discuss. I welcome the initiatives to help the deaf have greater access, and I hope we will have some time to get into a discussion of visa students. I notice you mentioned in passing that you wanted to review that. You may be aware the Department of Employment and Immigration in Ottawa is making it more difficult for them because, in addition to the discrimination in fees, it is going to start charging user fees for almost every paper it stamps for immigrant students, including a processing fee, a fee for extending time in the country, one for student visas, for job permits, etc. While this may help Mr. Mulroney's deficit position, it does not help visa students very much.

I agree with you that we should be encouraging the exchange of intellectual ideas between Canada and other countries by welcoming visa students here and hoping that our students will receive reciprocal treatment in other countries.

I think we have more or less run out of time. One question I wanted to ask is if some time during the afternoon you will indicate to us what the supplementary vote of \$544,000 is for. It came to us in supplementary estimates with this terse description for that amount of money: "To provide the overall direction required to enable the ministry to meet its objectives." I think estimates should be more precise than that.

On page 2 it does tell us how much is for salaries, employee benefits, transportation ser-

vices and supplies, but it does not say what those objectives are that are to be funded with over \$500,000.

In closing, I might also mention my disappointment that the briefing book did not go into the question of special warrants that were used to fund the ministry in the first few months after the election. There was no mention, as far as I could see, of what the special warrant money was spent on and which votes it came out of. Neither did it deal with the supplementary estimates, even though I think they were out by the time the briefing notes came. I think we should be provided with that sort of information on a regular basis in briefing notes.

I am looking forward to discussing this item by item after lunch. I hope we can give equal time to the three areas of universities, colleges and students, and have a short report on that supplementary estimate for the objectives of the ministry.

Mr. Chairman: By allocation of time, the minister gets the prize. He did all of his work in 30 minutes.

Ms. Bryden: May I have the consent of the committee to table this OSAP list as an exhibit?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. McFadden had 39 minutes, and Ms. Bryden had 45 minutes, so if we are sharing time, we can even that out this afternoon.

Since the minister had asked that he be allowed to attend cabinet, I think we could adjourn until two o'clock sharp. The minister can get his gun loaded for his replies. We have about three hours and three minutes to go, and we will try to share the time.

May I have the committee's permission to start promptly at 2 p.m., even if every party is not represented?

Agreed to.

The committee recessed at 12:08 p.m.

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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, January 29, 1986
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, January 29, 1986

The committee met at 2:01 p.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (continued)

Mr. Chairman: I presume the minister wishes to respond to some of the things said by the two critics. Since Mr. McFadden is here, perhaps the minister will start with the points relative to his presentation.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Perhaps I will do that. Before I get into the substance of my response, I want to note to members of the committee that my deputy will not be here this afternoon because of an urgent matter, but our assistant deputy minister, Dr. Ralph Benson, will be joining us. It may well be that during the course of this meeting we will call upon other members of the ministry to speak to specific issues.

Mr. Chairman: If you are asked to come to a microphone, please take one of those two chairs on my left; they are the only two with microphones.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I was particularly interested to hear the comments of my colleague Mr. McFadden, the member for Eglinton. He spoke about post-secondary education the way it ought to be spoken about: in general. The road to Damascus is getting so busy I think I am going to have to talk to my colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) to turn it into a four-lane highway. I hope it is not a limited-access four-lane highway.

Mr. McFadden: It is about time we did some road work.

Mr. Dean: Why waste money on Damascus? How about Wentworth?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will speak about Wentworth later.

Mr. McFadden spoke about accommodating and revitalizing our institutions so they can be responsive to a post-industrial era. He mentioned the increased importance of post-secondary education to ensure our vitality over and beyond the next 20 years.

One of his most interesting comments from my perspective was something that perhaps I neglected to mention during my initial remarks. It

dealt with the social changes our institutions will have to participate in.

The point, well taken in this context, is that although the economic imperative is very important in allocating resources to higher education, we must never lose sight of the fact that post-secondary education, as well as education generally, is crucial to the social and cultural vitality of a community. Education is good for its own sake. Developing the intellectual capacity of our people is important so we can be vital, not only economically but also as a people. My friend made that comment very well.

The issues he raised related primarily to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education but also to the proposal by the University of Toronto to close the faculty of architecture. The juxtaposition of these two matters has not escaped this minister. I think the way in which they were juxtaposed has been effected for a political reason, because in substance the two are not related.

We and our government are of the view that OISE should become part of the University of Toronto not to effect its demise but to enable it to continue and expand the vital work it does. We see a number of areas where vitality can be enhanced. As a matter of policy, we believe the synergies of these two institutions working permanently together is a good thing.

It is perhaps a historical accident that OISE, so crucially involved in the area of education, arose as a quasi-autonomous institution. The fact is that graduates of OISE have always received their graduate degrees from the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto has a well-established program in its faculty of education. OISE has a magnificent program in every dimension of the study of education. It has field workers who carry on research and development work in education throughout the province.

We see the capacity of these two institutions working together as a means not only to bring greater vitality to the undergraduate work at the University of Toronto but also to allow OISE, as part of the University of Toronto, to draw upon the expertise of the entire institution. We see no reason these two institutions cannot work under a single umbrella.

That being said, we acknowledge that discussions between the two institutions thus far have been less than productive. You know the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), given the current tone, suggested any fiscal rearrangement be forestalled while the two institutions work together to determine jointly the terms of the union. In my view, those terms of union have to ensure to the extent possible that OISE not only survives and remains vital but also becomes more vital in the future.

2:10 p.m.

The juxtaposition of our policy with respect to OISE and the University of Toronto's recommendation that the faculty of architecture be closed is inappropriate for a number of reasons.

The faculty of architecture at the University of Toronto, I am told by its president, has suffered serious administrative, academic and organizational problems for a long time. Although I am told the president of U of T suggested in a newspaper report that they are due to lack of resources, anyone who knows the history of that faculty over the past 15 years knows the dilemma was not lack of financial resources but lack of ability on the part of the faculty itself and the University of Toronto to create a discipline that would result in a high-quality faculty.

I am told by the president that the quality of education at the faculty of architecture currently falls below a standard that he would find acceptable and that, were additional resources provided to the University of Toronto without strings, his priority would not be a faculty of architecture.

I am frankly saddened by the recommendation that will be going to the governing council. Nevertheless, I think it is important to allow the process to have a full hearing before the committees of the governing council that will hear the matter.

My suspicion is that, as the matter gets a greater public airing, various constituencies—not only within Metropolitan Toronto but also throughout the province and right across Canada—will speak up loudly and clearly. I frankly hope we can collectively find a resolution to the recommendation that has been made by the administration, a resolution that goes beyond a simple recommendation that the faculty be closed.

That being said, all of us here must understand that it is the responsibility of neither this ministry nor this government to prejudice the university's in-house process to determine its priorities and to determine which of its programs it will support

and from which of its programs it will withdraw support.

I simply reiterate what I said in the House. As a resident of the area, I was personally saddened by the decision. We as a government are going to be monitoring very closely what happens over the next period to ensure that the interests of this province are maintained.

Let me now go to the question raised by both my friends the member for Eglinton (Mr. McFadden) and the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) on established programs financing transfers and the broader question of underfunding. The EPF transfers ought perhaps to have a fuller airing when we discuss them as we continue this hearing process until 5 p.m., or whenever the chairman decides it is time to adjourn.

Mr. Chairman: Oh, not before 5 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Not before 5 p.m.? Not even for coffee?

Mr. Chairman: We shall bring you all you wish.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There is no doubt in my mind that the real issue with respect to established programs financing is no longer the issue of whether the full increment at the federal level will be passed through to the provinces. The October 24 budget of the Treasurer responded in a way that fulfilled our political commitment to pass the full increment of EPF through to the post-secondary sector. The four per cent increase in operating grants, aggregated with the university excellence funds, fulfils that commitment.

The real issue with EPF is the disintegration at the federal level of a commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities in the area of financial support for post-secondary education throughout Canada. The single most important event with respect to EPF is the federal government's decision to reduce increments, which in the aggregate would amount to a reduction of \$2 billion over five years, and its decision to move up the process one year as compared to what had been been suggested originally by that level of government.

What is interesting about that endeavour is that it was done completely, I suggest to the members of the committee, in the absence of any kind of policy underpinnings. Is it the policy of the federal government that post-secondary education or health, which is also financed through EPF, is now less of a priority than other initiatives? Frankly, any budgetary initiative by any government in the absence of policy underpinnings is foolish. Governments generally

should have policy reasons for taking financial steps.

In my view, it will be necessary to have a national conference on how Canada is going to approach the financing of post-secondary education in the future. Post-secondary education is far too important simply to leave to the vagaries of ministers of finance determined to reduce their deficits. In the past, Canada has had stable funding of post-secondary education. I submit we now have rather unstable funding mechanisms. This government is at an appropriate level to seek ways to recreate or find new models to fulfil the commitment of not only this province but also every other province in that regard.

I came yesterday from a meeting of Canadian ministers of education. At that meeting, financing of post-secondary education was the issue of greatest interest and concern. The issue is a Canadian one and we have to look at it in that context.

I should like now to make a few comments on the report of the Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario, the Bovey commission. My friend the member for Beaches-Woodbine was raising questions about the extent to which this government is going to implement some of the recommendations found in Bovey.

The work of the commission was extensive, the research was exhaustive and we have already begun to take steps on a number of recommendations. Members of the committee will know the government has rejected the proposition contained in the Bovey report that as a matter of policy the government should reduce accessibility to enhance the quality of education; that is, better education for fewer students. We have said no, clearly and unequivocally, to that.

There are other things in the report that have had and will have an effect on the system and our future initiatives. I mention only one: the faculty renewal component of the university excellence fund. The recommendation in the Bovey report was clear and unequivocal that new faculty—opening up new positions for bright, young, graduate students—was very important to the vitality of the system. We have taken that step in the university excellence fund with \$10 million devoted to the hiring of new faculty.

My friend the member for Beaches-Woodbine also asked what initiatives we will be mounting to enhance the role of women in our institutions. I expect that the advice I get from the Ontario Council on University Affairs will deal in part with that question and that the utilization and

application of the faculty renewal fund will serve as a further step in that direction.

2:20 p.m.

I am aware, as are all the members of the committee, that women in this province are underrepresented. That being said, it is important to acknowledge that the process of redressing that imbalance is in some respects a long-term objective. I am happy to see that at the University of Windsor there are now more women than men in the faculty of law. I hope that perhaps five or six years down the road, this will mean that on the benches of our courts there will be far more women presiding over the Supreme Court of Ontario and our provincial and family courts.

However, to ensure that women take their rightful place in our faculties, they must enter the streams of courses that will give rise to positions in faculty. I cannot tell you I have a comprehensive program to achieve that goal but the faculty renewal fund stands as a first step.

Ms. Bryden: May I remind you Bovey said \$10 million the first year and up to \$30 million within five years.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The point is well taken. The university excellence fund was an initiative for 1986-87. It was described as a first step in my statement in the House. I can only suggest to my friend that she stay tuned. It is clear that this government is not going to create magically, overnight, the kind of post-secondary system all of us agree is necessary. However, if you stay tuned you will see an approach that represents a far firmer and more substantive commitment than we have seen in the past. We all acknowledge that as appropriate for the future.

Let me turn to the question of the ad hoc committee on research. My friend, the member for Beaches-Woodbine, raised some interesting questions. The committee was to have reported by January 20 and virtually all the work on that report has been completed. I anticipate seeing the report in its final form in the near future. The issues the member for Beaches-Woodbine raised are the kinds of issues dealt with by that committee. I am confident, because I have seen preliminary work from the committee, that those issues have been effectively addressed and I look forward to seeing the report in its final form.

She raised some concern that certain universities were not represented on the committee and that they would, therefore, suffer. I say to my friend that the committee's purpose was not to pit some institutions against others, it was to see how institutions could collectively garner the resources and respond to the challenges of

fundamental and applied research that our institutions must do.

Ms. Bryden: Is it possible to channel this kind of grant to any of the 15 universities after the procedure is adopted?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not familiar with any program operated by my ministry in effect right now where certain institutions have access and others do not. I would not expect the recommendations of that committee to call for the allocation of resources to certain institutions and not to others. I would be very surprised.

Reference was made to the college excellence fund and a comparison between it and the university excellence fund. The allocation to the college excellence fund was less than the university excellence fund, but I think one must realize there were additional allocations of resources to the colleges to provide the financing necessary to deal with the implementation of the Weiler arbitration that arose out of the labour dispute last year, and indeed that, unquestionably, additional resources will be needed to implement the terms of the collective agreement being negotiated right now.

My friend asked me whether the government was prepared to finance the agreement which I expect the Council of Regents and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union to reach in the very near future. Obviously, the government is prepared to finance any reasonable agreement that is reached. In that regard, one of the things I am most happy about in my short term as minister is the change in the bargaining relationship between the council of regents and OPSEU faculty representatives throughout our community colleges.

Shortly after receiving the Skolnik report, I took a number of initiatives. They were set out in my statement. I do not have to review them here, but one of the things I had suggested arising out of that report, and one initiative we will take, is an analysis of the collective bargaining process. That was done based on the sense that the tone, the texture, the relationship between the parties was so poisoned that we had to look at the question of whether or not it was structurally the wrong model for effective collective bargaining. We will, then, have a look at that question.

That being said, I am greatly encouraged, not only by the reports that I get from the negotiations currently going on but by the report of the mediator. I do not want to prejudice any investigation that we do, but I am encouraged that, this year, the tone, the nature, the quality of

the negotiation between the parties is very different than had existed previously.

However, because of the kinds of things that were said in the Skolnik report, it is important to say that it is not this government's intention to create a more vital, more effective community college system simply through the mechanism of collective bargaining. There are other things that must be done at the community college level.

Resources must be applied in other areas, including new facilities. Faculty members who teach in drafty portables, with classrooms that are far too small to hold the number of students in them, will not be effective teachers. One does not allocate additional resources for capital construction through a collective agreement.

We have to ensure that there is sufficient support staff to assist the colleges in doing their work. Equipment needs, and upgrading in a number of areas, are very substantial in all of our institutions. I anticipate that we will move to finance a reasonable collective agreement, but we have to move in a number of different areas as well. In moving in those areas, I feel confident that the faculty will be able to do the important work of education that it does in an even more effective way.

2:30 p.m.

There was some question concerning student awards. I think the particular issue raised by the member for Beaches-Woodbine can be dealt with, perhaps, in another context, with a specific response.

An old friend of mine, John Yaremko, a member of the Progressive Conservative Party and a provincial secretary for a good number of years in the government of Ontario, tells me he was the member who encouraged, who cajoled his government, to institute—I think it was back in 1951—a student assistance program for post-secondary education. I think it was in 1951 or 1952 that the first program was implemented, with a budget of some \$500,000. In the budget of October 24, an increment of eight per cent brought the total value of the Ontario student assistance program to some \$145 million.

Together, our government and the previous one have been doing rather substantial things in the area of student assistance, but there is a lot more to be done. That is why, as I mentioned in my remarks, we are looking at reviewing the system in a more thorough fashion. We want to ensure that the assistance is effective, that it goes where it ought to be going, that it is at the level where it ought to be, and that it is delivered in a way which is characteristic of efficiency.

That system has grown substantially, and I know that the officials in my ministry have done marvellous work, frankly, in coping with the rapidly expanding system.

One of the things that I hope emanates out of our review is recommendations for an even more effective delivery mechanism based on the technologies that are currently available to us. Online computer systems, and that sort of thing, can be of great assistance to us.

That sort of thing will be expensive, but it may well, in the long run, be somewhat cheaper. The system will be delivered more effectively; the students will spend less time worrying about whether or not their grant is coming through and more time worrying about crucial things, such as the books they read.

Ms. Bryden: What about more stress on grants and less on loans?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Well, my friend makes an important point, and I think we took that step when we made the new allocations.

Students, particularly graduate students, have complained to me repeatedly that the debt burden they are incurring is very substantial. I am sympathetic to that. Without saying at all that we are going to move to a regime of more grants and fewer loans, I am very sympathetic to the issue of debt load upon graduation.

Mr. McKessock: Could I have a supplementary?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Sure, I guess, if it is okay with the chair.

Mr. McKessock: Regarding debt load when one graduates, I have quite a few students who come to me and say that it is unfortunate that they were born into a middle-class family, because they have to borrow the money for their education and pay interest rates from day one. Students from poorer families, on the other hand, who are attending college with them, receive either interest-free loans or grants.

When they graduate, they are debt-free, whereas middle-class students, whose families feel they cannot provide money for them, have to go out and borrow it, and end up with a big debt load. Sometimes being born poor is a benefit.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Well, that is first time I have heard that the OSAP program provides too much assistance for students from lower-income families.

Mr. McKessock: I was not saying that it was providing too much assistance for lower-income families. I guess you could take it that way, but the middle-income families certainly do not

like the idea that they are worse off than the poorer-income families when their children reach the end of their education period.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The point is well taken. The OSAP program has always been based on the premise that it was a mechanism for giving financial assistance where financial assistance was most needed.

There will come a time when we have to take a broader look at how we allocate the burden of post-secondary education, as between family, student, government and the private sector—and when I say government, I include the federal level and the provincial level. What is the appropriate ratio between fees a student should pay and the amount the government should contribute on a per capita basis?

When we do that, there will always be a portion of students with the financial capacity to pay who will pay. The OSAP program was designed to ensure that those who did not have the financial capacity to pay but had the intellectual resources to attend, could attend. I am not satisfied that we have achieved that goal but it still has to be our primary objective.

Mr. McKessock: It is a very complicated process. I have gone through it with some of my constituents to determine what type of grant or loan they are eligible for.

I would also like to mention some of the problems those in the farm community have. On paper they may have assets of \$500,000 as part of their business which, for the last few years, may not have been making them any money.

In fact, they may be losing money. Yet when it comes to meeting the criteria for a loan or grant for their children, they do not qualify because they have too many assets.

I know the farm community is allowed more assets than the individual in the city. Individuals are allowed \$75,000 for capital assets and farmers \$150,000. Some farmers have asked me, if their assets are \$500,000, "What are we supposed to do, go out and sell a chunk of our business so we can put our students through school?"

In so doing, they tend to lose more money because they have sold off part of their business.

So there are some inequities. Qualification should be based on income rather than assets. I agree that if a person has two houses and a boat, they should be taken into consideration as true assets, but company assets you use to obtain your living should not be listed. It should be the income from those assets.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The point is well taken. I do not have any solutions but I can assure you those are the kinds of questions we are looking at as we undertake this more thorough review of the program.

Mr. McKessock: The solution should be to count only luxury assets and not business assets. If the assets provide your living, then income should be one of the criteria.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: What do you do in a situation where a person is asset rich and income poor? Companies have gone under because of that dilemma.

Mr. McKessock: That is partly what I am talking about. It certainly appears that way when you apply for a student loan.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I want to make a few more remarks on some of the matters that were raised. I cannot remember who raised it, but one was the question of supply and demand and whether the government and this ministry were going to take a more hands-on approach to it.

The response has to be partly yes and partly no. The positive part is that inside and outside the ministry, and at the federal level, our ability to forecast needs in business and industry is becoming greater. Having that information available to our institutions on a more refined basis assists them in their planning.

2:40 p.m.

Planning capacities for the future is a crucial function of every institution and it is important that we render every possible assistance to our institutions to do that.

I referred earlier to the fact that education goes beyond simply supplying business and industry with well-qualified technicians, doctors, lawyers or whatever to act as employees and employers in the economic life of the province. There is and must always be room for education that is not related in any measure to the needs of an economy. We need our painters, sculptors, artists, poets, thinkers and philosophers. We need intelligence and ability in every aspect of society. Simply to say that the university system will become a mechanism for fueling the economy of the province would be a retrograde step.

There was some comment on the \$50 fee that the Department of Employment and Immigration is considering imposing on student visa holders. Again, it is a step that is taken absolutely without any policy underpinnings. I agree with my friend the member for Beaches-Woodbine that it seems to be a simple budgetary measure that is yet

another signal to the international community that we do not want their students. It goes against where the initiatives should be going; namely, that we do want their students; we want to participate more in the international arena. We want our students to go abroad; we want our institutions to go abroad; we want to get involved in the free trade of ideas around the world.

To send up that kind of signal sets a terrible precedent, and it follows the raising of the levels of resources that a student must now have, I think from \$6,000 to \$12,000 annually. It is important that a student have enough money to live in Canada; but frankly, these kinds of signals are counterproductive to the initiatives that Ontario looks forward to taking in the area not only of foreign students but also of the broader international arena.

Finally—and I will end with this—there was some question with respect to supplementary estimates, I will ask Dr. Benson to respond to this. I will call upon Mr. Holder of the ministry to make a few comments regarding special warrants.

Dr. Benson: With respect to supplementary estimates, \$544,400 was a preliminary allocation made to the ministry in order to allow the creation of the deputy minister's office, which involves salaries to the deputy minister and his immediate staff, employee benefits, transportation and communications services, supplies, equipment and so on; and to fund a few studies that have been undertaken—for example, the ad hoc committee on research. Basically it was the preliminary operating budget for the deputy minister's office. Once the deputy minister's office is established, we will set the budget for the year. It will possibly be 1986-87 before that can occur.

Mr. Holder: There was a question about the need for and subsequent use of the special warrant of \$450 million shown in the estimates. As I am sure you all know, the ultimate authority a ministry has for making payments is through the Supply Act, and at the commencement of a fiscal year a motion of interim supply normally is adopted through the Legislature. Last March, or at the beginning of April, the House was not in session, it was prorogued. That being the case, there was a need to make a special arrangement to get interim payment authority. That was done through the special warrant.

The amount of \$450 million was an estimate of the expenditures likely to be incurred by the ministry in the period between April 1 and the time the motion of interim supply would eventually be passed. That motion of interim

supply was passed in early July, and at that point the ministry had actually spent some \$367 million on its normal programs, grants to the universities and colleges and the student assistance programs.

Mr. McFadden: I had a feeling this morning while I was listening to the member for Beaches-Woodbine that I should be provided with the opportunity to write a reply as well, along with the minister. It seemed as though both of us were being taken to task either for recent or for past history.

The only thing I would say is that, first, speaking for myself, I was not aware that I had been on the road to Damascus—maybe the two of us were there—let alone on the road to Stoney Creek. I have been on that one, too. Speaking for myself, I have always been very committed to post-secondary education and to its importance to society.

I would say more broadly with respect to my party's commitment, which was criticized here to some extent, that if you take a look at the tremendous expansion of the university system and at the establishment of new universities through the 1950s and 1960s under former Premier Davis when he was the minister's predecessor, that in itself spoke to the priorities of the university system and how important it was felt to be for Ontario society.

Second, the whole establishment of the community college system—which is an excellent system, highly regarded by educators from everywhere who look at it—again indicated the priority that was placed on post-secondary education and the importance of it to the residents of Ontario.

Certainly during the last number of years the amount of funding available was restricted. However, I do not think it was a matter of simply trying to restrict or otherwise frustrate colleges and universities. During the last 10 years or so, if we go back 10 years, we faced unusual times in this province, nationally and in countries around the world. We went through a rather unusual period of hyperinflation and then recession.

The province made a decision, and obviously there can be some argument about whether it was right or wrong. I know the chairman had some role in Management Board of Cabinet in connection with supervising some of the spending.

The government of the day made a commitment in a number of areas to which it felt it had to give some priority, not the least of which was job creation and health care. We could, perhaps, put

more money into health care. Health care has a tremendous need for money, but a major provincial commitment was made in that area and in the job creation area. Further to that the province gave some priority to holding the line on the deficit as well as to holding the line on tax increases.

To take this in isolation and to indicate that either our party or I myself do not have a commitment to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and its importance to our society is being unfair to some extent. I am not saying the minister was implying that. I simply want to put the record straight. The priority and the commitment are very much there.

What I wanted to do, though, rather than go back—we could go on all day telling everyone what we just finished saying—

Mr. Chairman: We will try very hard to keep you and the minister out of a legal battle.

Mr. McFadden: I do not think my friend and I will get into that.

I want to turn to the estimates and to some of the things that concern me in relation to what I see in the figures. On page 21, under vote 3301, we have the outline here: "Transfer Payments: Grants for Operating Costs."

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Sorry, you are at page—
2:50 p.m.

Mr. McFadden: There are so many pages and everything around here. It is page 21, at least in my copy. It is item 1. What is this entitled? Estimates Background Material. Is that the same page?

Interjection: Yes.

Mr. McFadden: It is the provincial support for universities.

I find the whole area of university finance to be really Byzantine with respect to understanding the basis on which everything is worked out and so on. These figures have been arrived at on the basis of a blend of an old and a new formula.

One of the things that stands out is the large percentage increase in grants going to certain universities and the very modest percentages in relation to others. The total increase is 4.9 per cent, which, as the minister has said, is in excess of the rate of inflation.

You can take a look at York University, which has an increase of 11.7 per cent, or at Brock University, which has an increase of 10.7 per cent. We have a situation here where Lakehead University is at 9.1 per cent, Laurentian University of Sudbury is at 7.5 per cent, the University of Windsor is at 8.6 per cent and Trent University

is at 8.6 per cent. Those universities clearly are well ahead with respect to inflation but are also receiving more than the 4.9 per cent average increase.

We then turn to certain other universities. The University of Toronto is at 3.4 per cent, Queen's University is at 3.2 per cent, the University of Western Ontario is at 3.3 per cent and the University of Waterloo is at 3.6 per cent. Ryerson Polytechnical Institute is all the way down to 2.4 per cent, and our friends at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education got 0.5 per cent.

I wonder whether the minister would review the basis for these rates of increase—in terms, obviously, of the formula—as well as the basis for this kind of formula. One of the things that strikes me about it is that we have talked about the need for research and development. The universities that are clearly on the low end are the universities that, at this time at least, are probably the most research and development oriented.

I wonder whether we might address this for a few minutes. First, can you explain the reasoning and the policy background behind the large increases in the case of certain universities and the fairly modest, if nonexistent, increases for a number of the other institutions?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will begin by saying that if we are to get into a detailed discussion of the intricacies of the operating formula, we know the way in which we are going to take up the next two hours of these estimates.

Mr. McFadden: It is important.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It continues to be an important issue. The formula for allocating basic operating grants continues to be a fundamental issue confronting the ministry and each institution.

There was an old formula, there is a new formula and there is a combination of the two. I will turn to the head of the university relations branch to give you more detail on that, but I will say that for this coming year, on the basis of advice I have received from the Ontario Council on University Affairs, we have decided to maintain the current operating formula rather than to move the next step to the new operating formula.

Of course, it is a matter of great contention among institutions because it speaks to the level of funding for a particular institution. Our work would be made far easier if the universities could collectively agree on the terms of a workable formula for operating grants. The Council of Ontario Universities has spent endless hours

trying to resolve those differences amongst its members. Thus far it has not been possible, but the work is continuing.

In the meantime, the Ontario Council on University Affairs is examining the question of the operating formula in some depth, and I expect to hear from it with final advice in the relatively near future. I think it will be some months from now, frankly.

With that I will turn to Rodger Cummins, who will explain the intricacies of the formula in some greater detail.

Mr. Cummins: The estimate for 1985-86 for university operating purposes is \$1,244,000,000. About 97 per cent of that is distributed through a formula, and the effect of the formula is shown in the handbook on page 21. That is what has been referred to.

The handbook describes the way the formula operates on page 19 and 20. The formula in place for 1984-85, 1985-86 and now again in 1986-87 is a formula that was announced in December 1983. It is a combination of an old formula and a new formula. Both the old and new formulas reflect a historical development that has taken place over a number of years to provide for less and less sensitivity to current enrolment changes in the formula. Although there are great differences among institutions with respect to the increases they receive, and they reflect the enrolment to a certain extent, the formula has been modified over the years so that the changes that result from enrolment changes are very much modified and reduced in the effect they have on annual increases.

Very simply, the formula in place in the three years I have just described is two thirds of an old formula, which is outlined on page 19. The old formula took three base years, the enrolments in 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77, took the difference between that and the enrolment in the moving three-year average and took 50 per cent of the difference. As one can see, the result of that is that the effect of the changes in enrolment from the base years are substantially reduced.

Two thirds of the formula is based on that particular formula, and then one third is based on another formula, which essentially has a base that represents 75 per cent of the distribution among the institutions and 25 per cent on a moving three-year average. So the new formula is even less sensitive to current enrolment changes.

As the minister has indicated, the movement to that fully implemented formula with 75 per cent discounting has not taken place. It is under

review at present by the Ontario Council on University Affairs, which has been asked to make a recommendation.

Mr. McFadden: Having talked this over with some of the universities, I know there is some real controversy. The old formula is very much enrolment driven and the new formula, as you have said, is less sensitive to that.

This has clearly given incentive to universities to get a lot of additional enrolment. In fact, some of the universities are frank about their objective in doing so: to increase their percentage of the available pie. I will not mention the university, but I read one university document that specifically stated that its objective was to get a lot of new enrolment so its percentage of the pie would go up.

3 p.m.

This formula would then tend to work against a university or group of universities trying to maintain certain standards. Would that be correct? This is my impression from talking to university administrators. There are different points of view on this, but my impression is that there are different objectives for different universities.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Perhaps I will make some comments on that and then ask Rodger to expand on it.

The difficulty with any formula and the extent to which it will be enrolment-sensitive is not easily reconcilable. Whatever formula is applied will have some effect on the policy decisions made by an institution. Obviously, if a formula is very enrolment-sensitive, there will be an effort to increase enrolments as quickly as possible to take advantage of that formula. The formula with respect to community colleges is far more enrolment-sensitive. Michael Skolnik's recommendation in his report is that it should be less so. I am not sure where the balance is or whether one has to adjust the formula for changing times. The bottom line is accessibility. Those universities with rapidly expanding enrolments were being driven by an enrolment-sensitive formula. They were also providing places for Ontario students to get a quality education. Designing a formula is not an easy task. That is why we have the impasse and why we are trying to take a more in-depth look at it.

The advice from Ontario Council on University Affairs which I accepted for the coming year applied the present formula, which is a one-third, two-thirds mix with yet another dimension, a floor of 3.5 per cent in increases. Certain institutions that would be severely penalized by

the present formula, not having sufficient increments in their operating grant to operate effectively, were taken into consideration. We did create a floor of 3.5 per cent, which adds another dimension.

Mr. McFadden: Each of the institutions here can count on getting at least 3.5 or more?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is right, for 1986-87.

Mr. Cummins: Some institutions maintain there is an incentive to grow, but other institutions that have grown say there is now a severe penalty to growth. So you have two very different points of view. There are a number of institutions that feel the high level of insensitivity is a disincentive to adapt and grow. There are those two strongly held points of view in the university system.

Mr. McFadden: I have one last question and then I will yield the floor to my friend. This concerns Bovey's recommendation which pertains to this. Recommendation 25 in particular makes a suggestion about the differentiation corridor system, anywhere from plus or minus four per cent to plus or minus eight, which would clearly be of assistance to some universities doing research. I do not know whether that would necessarily hurt accessibility. It would depend on how it is being applied. It might assist some of the universities that have chosen to order their priorities somewhat differently from others, more in the research area.

You find a clear differentiation between institutions that want to push the undergraduate programs, which is thoroughly acceptable and a public need, and those trying to focus on quality research. The present formula—this mix of new and old—is a clear disincentive for that. Bovey has come up with this recommendation as a potential way to deal with it. I am curious about the minister's reaction to that recommendation, whether he was favourably disposed to some form of differential corridor or whether he felt that this was not a suitable way to come to grips with this.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Again, you have the problem of trying to affect the public policy objective—that is, fostering excellence in research by way of the mechanism of adjusting the formula. That has implications for all institutions. I am just not sure that it is the most effective way.

Under the university excellence fund, our approach has been to provide \$15 million to achieve the kind of results Bovey was looking

towards—that is, facilitating capacity in an institution to conduct research. That component of the excellence fund is clearly not sensitive to enrolment at all, because it is above and beyond the formula mechanism, where it should be.

If the government wants to achieve a specific policy objective, it ought to do that by using its resources and those of the taxpayer to target an area it has identified. We have done that.

We have begun to achieve the objectives Bovey was talking about. We have not used that model, and we are currently not prepared to use that model.

Ms. Bryden: I have a question about this table before we go on to other questions. I have other questions, too.

The allocation for Ryerson Polytechnical Institute does not seem to have gone up very much, \$1,270 over the 1984-85 estimates of \$51,513.

Mr. McFadden: It is 2.4 per cent.

Ms. Bryden: It is certainly less than three per cent.

Ryerson is different from the other institutions. Does it have a regular formula which brings it up in accordance with its growth in student body, with the cost of living, or with its growth in programs? I understand there is a tremendous increase in the demand for its programs, and it has never really been able to count on a regular, increased budget.

I do not think the university formulas fit it very well. Is there consideration for seeing that our only degree-granting polytechnical institute is adequately funded to fulfil the mandate it has? It is quite distinct from other universities.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will begin the response. As I said, for the coming year, there will be a base of 3.5 per cent. My understanding of the formula is that Ryerson is considered an institution like all the other institutions for the purposes of the formula.

You make a very good point in saying that Ryerson is a different kind of institution. It is, in fact, the only polytechnic in the province. It has a unique and specific mandate and role. In my view, it fulfils this in magnificent ways. There are some programs offered at Ryerson which are not available anywhere else in the province.

My understanding is that the formula has been applied to Ryerson. It gives rise to the same sorts of problems that exist for every other institution. With the growing demand for the programs at Ryerson, the operating grant will not rise as quickly under the regime of a formula that is not very enrolment-sensitive.

Ms. Bryden: Why do they end up with 2.4 per cent this year? You said there was going to be a ceiling at 3.5 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am talking about next year. The funds you see here have already been allocated. These are the budgets that the institutions are spending right now. The 3.5 per cent floor is for 1986-87.

3:10 p.m.

Ms. Bryden: They will at least be within that amount or more, we hope, because of their growing enrolment. They will get at least 3.5 per cent, and should probably get more because of their growing enrolment and change of programs.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am advised enrolment actually has not grown as much as the member for Beaches-Woodbine suggests. Full-time equivalent was 11,248 students in 1981-82 and 11,707 in 1984-85. This represents an increase of about 500 students.

Ms. Bryden: Yes, but I understand in some areas, radio and television, for example, many applicants had to be turned away.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There is no doubt that a number of students who apply for popular programs have to be turned down, many more than they accept. For example, the aviation program at Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology has a first-year enrolment of about 30 students selected from about 300 students who applied.

There are a number of considerations. One is supply and demand, particularly in the cases of Ryerson and community colleges. The level of enrolment must be responsive to the take up in the professions for which students are being trained. For example, demand for enrolment in law faculties in Ontario is enormous. I do not think this suggests we expand our law faculties to respond to the demand for enrolment because the law profession at the other end is screaming about growing numbers and is calling upon universities to restrict enrolment. We have to be concerned not only with demand from students applying but also from students graduating.

Ms. Bryden: Yes, I agree. Ryerson reports it has a very high placement record which indicates that what they are turning out right now is being taken up. Perhaps we should look at the potentials of fields for which large numbers apply.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am sure my friend at Ryerson, Mr. Segal, would support you in your

arguments for a specific formula applicable to Ryerson alone.

Ms. Bryden: Perhaps that is the answer; because Ryerson, as you say, is the only polytechnical institute in the province, and they are not like a university. Perhaps we should look at it.

Mr. Chairman, do you want me to continue with the question for which I had my hand up in response to the minister?

Mr. Chairman: Yes. You have a total of 20 minutes and have spent seven. Then we will go to Mr. Bossy.

Ms. Bryden: When the minister was talking about the changes needed and being introduced to the Ontario student assistance program, part-time students seem to be one of the most neglected groups. They are often cut off by the eight term limit because they may drop in and out of courses and complete them over a longer period than four years. While they may not be drawing OSAP, they lose that entitlement at the end of eight terms. Could that term be stretched?

Also, since most of them are employed and taking their degrees in evenings or summers, they have to pay back their OSAP loan within 30 days compared to six months after graduation for full-time students. That makes it hardly worth taking an OSAP loan. They might as well go to the bank where they would have to pay it maybe over six months.

They are eligible for bursaries as an alternative to loans, but bursaries are not necessarily targeted at those who are financially desperate. They are available to part-timers of modest income. Perhaps there should be more targeting of the bursaries, since part-timers do not really benefit from OSAP.

It is very important. One third of the students enrolled nowadays are part-timers, and a great many of them are women. A great many of them are trying to get a university education by attending classes at night. Many are single parents trying to better their skills by going to school in the evenings.

I think we need more encouragement to make it possible for them to take their degrees in this way. We also need to open faculties to part-time students. I understand that the law school at the University of Toronto does not take part-timers; but I think Osgoode Hall does. We need that kind of opening.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will make some general and specific comments and then ask Bill Clarkson, the director of the student awards branch, to get into more detail on the part-time students.

There is no faculty of law in the province that I know of that takes part-time students. I have spoken with the Ontario Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students, which has raised the question with me about the availability of professional education for part-time students.

I think the point that needs to be made is that the makeup of the student bodies in our institutions has changed, and will change even more dramatically over the next 15 years. There will be more and more part-time students. More and more professionals will be returning for additional training, upgrading of their talents, upgrading in their professions. The whole business of continuing education will become an increasingly important phenomenon in our post-secondary institutions.

I think there are a lot more part-timers, a lot more students who are at school after spending years in the work place, students who have families and substantial financial responsibilities, and we have to look at that.

Regarding the specifics that you raise, I shall ask Bill Clarkson to comment, because I think some of the programs you talked about are actually federal programs.

Mr. Clarkson: You mentioned the fact that part-time students have to repay their loans within 30 days. The program you are referring to is the Canada student loan part-time program. In Ontario, we feel that we have the best programs of assistance for part-time students of any province in Canada. The very needy student usually qualifies for assistance through the Ontario special bursary program, so that he or she does not have to assume any debt in that process, or in the process of studying on a part-time basis.

In terms of financial need, those students who do not qualify for a special bursary are possibly eligible for loan assistance through the Ontario student loan program. It is a provincial loan program that does provide assistance for part-time students. The loan is interest-free while the student is studying, and for six months thereafter. It is a fairly generous program.

Ms. Bryden: There is, however, the eight-term cutoff, is there not, if they do not complete their course within that time?

Mr. Clarkson: Yes, I will get to that in a minute.

The third program is the Canada student loan program I mentioned earlier, which is repayable. It is interest-bearing, as well, while the student is studying. It is basically applicable to less needy part-time students.

Your point is well taken that, as students study part-time, they are consuming, if you wish, grant eligibility periods. That is on the same basis as if they were studying full-time. If they took courses over the September to April term, and took five courses over five years, they would consume the same number of grant eligibility periods, which for most students would be two grant eligibility periods.

That is pretty well all I wanted to mention. The minister did announce another 800 bursaries for part-time students in the coming year. That will go a long way towards meeting the increasing demand for part-time study, and financial assistance for that kind of study.

3:20 p.m.

Ms. Bryden: Does the minister think we can get some of the professional schools open to them for part-time work? If he thinks part-time is going to be very important for the future, is he trying that?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It is something we have to take a serious look at. I know the pressure for that initiative, especially in the area of law, but I am not sure there is a faculty of law at this point that is willing to take that step, particularly with the large numbers in the profession and the desire generally to restrict the flow into that profession.

Ms. Bryden: That does discriminate against people who wish to be part of the group that does get accepted but can only do part-time study.

I will come back to other questions later.

Mr. Bossy: I want to go to established programs financing. With respect to EPF, we have seen the federal government's contribution going up and the provincial government's contribution going down. We have recognized that, as well as the fact that tuition fees are going up and all the factors in the overall funding of education, and the provincial government's portion has come down.

I have questions here because I know there is only the slightest possibility that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Wilson, is going to change his mind concerning the transfer of funds and the implications for education and funding.

Our government, and I want to review whether I am right and whether you can verify this, has pretty well made a commitment that any funds transferred by the federal government will definitely be targeted for education. That is contrary to accusations that have been made. I do not know.

You might have those figures on the percentage of the previous transfers that was not used for

education. I would be interested in knowing that to see what the federal government has transferred and what proportion was not used but will be used now if we go through with our commitments on this.

How are we going to be able to maintain the programs if we experience the effects of the reduction of the transfers we see coming on? Will the total commitment of transfers offset this? That is the point I am trying to get at. When the total amount transferred from the federal government to the Treasury under EPF is totally committed to the educational system, which was not done in the past number of years—I do not know by how much—will that offset the lower transfers?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not sure you are posing a question that is possible to answer. We do not know what the actual EPF transfer will be in the future. It is based on a complex formula that involves not only population growth but also gross national product and a number of other factors. That is the way in which the transfer, province by province, is made. Of course, it is wrapped up in health and education as one package.

Our party has always stated that the full increment in EPF transfers should be passed through to education. That was effected in the first budget the Treasurer brought forward on October 24. We cannot prejudice further budgets by saying that if we take the approximately 35 per cent earmarked by the federal government for education under EPF, we will offset the reductions Michael Wilson contemplates through a reduction in EPF.

It is important to restate that we have to set the policy first. The spending priorities on post-secondary education in this province have to arise out of the priorities this government sets. EPF's frailty is that it is done in a policy vacuum and has wound up in health, in a constitutional area that belongs to the province. We have set our priorities and placed post-secondary education high on the list. I assume our spending will reflect that. Nevertheless, we should not be driven by the budgetary decisions and allocation mechanism the federal government has chosen.

In fact, they are also dissatisfied. Although they say not enough of EPF is spent on education, you never hear that level of government complaining too much is spent on health. That is the frailty of EPF. It does not recognize that the establishment of educational policy is a provincial matter. The national responsibility is to

participate financially in supporting the vitality of the post-secondary system.

Mr. Chairman: That is a good answer, but we could make the same accusation against your government that you have made of ours. I am damned if you can prove whether it is right or wrong. That is where it rests.

Mr. Bossy: I can understand that, but I am looking at the kind of pressure we have in education. The thrust of our government is to protect the financing available from the federal government. I know a statement has been made by the Premier (Mr. Peterson). At the first ministers' conference he made a strong statement. In your communications with the federal authorities, have you made your own views known on this position? Have you had the opportunity to do this?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Not only have I had the opportunity but I have done so verbally with the Secretary of State, who has responsibilities at the federal level, and collectively through the Council of Ministers of Education for Canada. That does not say we have a resolution to the issue.

The federal government has a desire to get more political bang for its buck in the area of post-secondary education. The Macdonald commission report suggested a kind of voucher system so that funds go right from the federal Treasury into the students' hands. We run a great risk when the federal government starts trying to determine education policy for each of the provinces.

Mr. Bossy: I want to go further. Is there not a danger here? We see these diminishing transfers from the federal government to the province, putting the province in what could be a financially embarrassing position in the funding of education and then transferring that responsibility right back to students themselves.

3:30 p.m.

I worry about increased tuition fees. What does not come down from the top must come up from the bottom. If we want to maintain our standards and make all these programs available, there must be funding in some form or another. That is what worries me.

Many questions are asked in the constituency. They are worried about this and about what kind of position we are going to be taking to bring pressure to maintain the funding from the top down, instead of going after those who can least afford it, the students.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I could not agree with you more. The costs globally for post-secondary education are not going to go down for this country unless we simply abandon the kind of standards we have set for ourselves. In my view, and I said it earlier, we need a new national consensus on how we are going to finance post-secondary education. I hope Ontario can play a vital role in creating that new national consensus.

Mr. Bossy: I have one further question, and it is not related to that. It is based on comments that were made concerning faculty, enrolments and the overload—these are words I have heard and about which I also have some knowledge based on my own family in university—as well as the teacher-pupil ratio, based again on statements made this morning to the effect that there has been little or no hiring of new faculty in the past number of years.

The figures you quoted suggesting the enrolments stabilized between 1981 to 1985 would make sense, but I understood there was increased enrolment in the overall educational system.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We will look up the numbers.

Mr. Bossy: It is just to relate this back to the overload; justifiably, I agree. When you find there are teachers with as many as 100 or 150 pupils, they are just reviewers; they are no longer teachers, because they can no longer teach. It worries me that this is happening within the universities.

The casualty rate also worries me. Figures show that in a class that began three years ago with 150 students, only five survive today from the original group. I do not know whether that is because many of the students did not comprehend what was being said or whether that was done intentionally to diminish the numbers in that school. These are areas where I have suspicions about what is going on to control the population within the universities because of lack of funding. That worries me.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Are you talking about a reduction from 150 to five students in a particular program?

Mr. Bossy: In the original class, 150 students started. As of New Year's, there were five left of the original 150 who started that course.

I am wondering whether they are weeding out and tightening up because of pressures, setting higher standards to make sure the strong survive and the weak fall because they no longer can absorb them. They control the class size because

they no longer have the room in certain classes. Concerning lawyers, doctors and accountants, they accept only so many into the stream. They want to control the number going into the professions.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It sounds like a very popular professor is running the program. I hesitate to comment on the example—

Mr. Bossy: I realize that. I am just explaining my concerns. I hope these things are not happening because of a lack of funding for education.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let us go to the more basic issue you identify: student-teacher ratios. Student-teacher ratios have deteriorated over the past 10 years. There is no doubt about it. The number of new faculty that has been brought into our institutions over the past five or 10 years has been alarmingly low. That is why Bovey said, "Get on with the faculty renewal program." That is why the government, in its first budget, introduced a faculty renewal program.

We are not going to do it all in one year, but we have seen and identified the problem and we have committed ourselves to act in that area.

I cannot possibly deal with the example you brought up, but—

Mr. Bossy: I do not expect that, but I was interested in the pupil-teacher ratio.

Ms. Bryden: While they are getting the figures, can the minister answer one supplementary question on established programs financing? Have you been talking or working with the other Premiers and ministers across the country, who I understand are trying to organize a lobby to see that EPF is not cut, as Mr. Wilson has proposed?

I think their feeling is that unless all the provinces get together and make their cases as to the disastrous effect it will have on your programs, nothing will happen. It may be a bit like the lobby of the old age pensioners to change Mr. Wilson's mind on the cutbacks there. Have you been involved with other Premiers and ministers on the development of this sort of lobby?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As I mentioned earlier, I came yesterday from an interprovincial conference of ministers of education where the question of EPF was perhaps the number one topic of discussion—the financing of post-secondary education and our relationship with the federal government. The matter was raised in the strongest terms at the first ministers' conference. My colleague the Treasurer has been grappling

with the issue, along with the federal minister and his colleagues from other provinces.

All that being said, I am not sure we are very far down the road in effectively lobbying. I suggested earlier, and I reiterate now, that it is incumbent upon us as provinces to come together with the federal government to identify the policy. Once we have agreed on a policy of the extent to which this is a priority, we can establish the appropriate funding mechanisms.

My sense is that the federal level of government is implementing its cuts in a policy vacuum. They are not even saying, for example, that in dealing with EPF it is their view that too much is being spent on health, post-secondary education or anything. They just say, "We intend to cut in that area."

What is their policy? I do not know what their policy is, and I think we need a new national consensus on how we are going to finance post-secondary education.

Ms. Bryden: However, we may have to provide the figures and the facts as to what is going to happen. We may be part of the policymaking body to get them to move.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Absolutely; there is no doubt about that.

Mr. Chairman: The enrolment figures for 1981 to 1985 were asked for.

Mr. Cummins: The full-time equivalent enrolment for students in 1980-81 was 193,229; in 1984-85, it was 221,914.

Mr. Wiseman: I wonder whether the minister can help me. At my constituency office last fall, I ran into more cases where parents wanted their children to enrol in a certain university, where young people wanted to enrol in perhaps two or three universities of their choice, only to find out they were full.

The fathers and mothers complained to me—and Ms. Bryden spoke briefly about it this morning—that an awful lot of visa students seemed to be in those universities. Do you have a handle on, or any control over, the number of visa students a university allows into its system; bearing in mind, as the parents told me, that they are the taxpayers?

3:40 p.m.

In one case, a fellow and his wife had never had the marks or the opportunity to attend university. They then found they had a child who had the smarts to go, but was not allowed in. They felt those two universities had a lot of foreign students. I do not suppose you have any way of knowing whether they go back to their

countries, but they thought or had information that the majority of those students tried to stay in this country rather than taking their knowledge back to help build the countries they left.

As a member, it is very hard to explain, when their dollars are going into the education system, why their kids who have the marks cannot get into the universities because of what they think is more than the right number coming from overseas.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) will be happier than I am to know there has been a rather dramatic decline in the number of visa students in Ontario universities. I think that is a retrograde step and I look towards a policy that will make our institutions more accessible to foreign students.

Mr. Wiseman: At the expense of the taxpayers of Canada?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You say "at the expense of." I do not think it ought to be at the expense of Ontario students and I am not aware of situations where it is at the expense of Ontario students.

It may well be that a student applying to an Ontario university does not go to the institution of his first choice or does not get into a program he wishes to get into. It may be that, notwithstanding that fact, there are foreign students in those programs. I am not sure I would want to be the minister who brought in a policy that said our universities would first take every student who was an Ontario resident into a program and thereafter top up the system with foreign students.

There is a larger context to the issue of foreign students at our universities than simply a matter of places. The presence of foreign students adds a dynamic to our institutions that is unavailable in any other context.

Mr. Wiseman: I do not want a speech on it.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I feel very strongly about it.

Mr. Wiseman: Are you telling me that you, as the minister, do not want to make sure that students who have the ability and the marks, and whose fathers and mothers pay taxes in this province to get a post-secondary education for their children, are not as important as students coming from offshore?

The people I have spoken about are not against some of them coming in. They feel we have to share what we have. However, they also feel they have a right to have their children educated, perhaps not in their first choice of university, but certainly in their second. When they find that the

programs into which their sons or daughters are going are plugged with foreign students, I do not think that is fair.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I would be very surprised to see any program plugged with foreign students. The statistics are that at the undergraduate level in 1983 there were 12,183 visa students at our universities out of a total enrolment of some 180,000.

Mr. Wiseman: Do you have a breakdown on how many there are in engineering? There seem to be a lot of students from Taiwan and elsewhere going into that.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That was 1983. The figures for 1984 are 10,564, and I am told that although the figures for 1985 are not finalized, they are even less. We are closing ourselves to an important dynamic in our institutions by closing our doors to foreign students. I say this because I think it is important, as a matter of policy, to ensure that universities in Ontario are accessible to foreign students.

I am not saying we have a free competition around the world for places at Ontario universities. There is a substantial differential fee where foreign students pay virtually the full instructional cost of their education.

Mr. Wiseman: In most cases, it is less here than it is across the border. They can come here and get their education more cheaply than in many of the states in the United States.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That may well be, but I do not believe in the dramatic high tuition policies our friends to the south have implemented. That would return us to a situation where education was available to the economic elite and few others.

Mr. Wiseman: Can I follow through on that? I am still not satisfied with the answer and I am sorry the minister feels our kids are secondary and those from offshore are first.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I interrupt my friend from Lanark. I did not say our kids were secondary.

Mr. Wiseman: I think Hansard will bear that out.

How many professors in our universities are on visas compared to those who are Canadian citizens? Are about 60 or 70 per cent of the people working on visas and not Canadian citizens?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: While we are desperately looking up the figures, it is important to point out that the policy of the federal government in matters of immigration—and I practised some immigration law before I took on this new and

exciting assignment—is that any employer, whether a university, a private entrepreneur or a major corporation, must look to Canada first to determine whether there is a qualified professor, engineer, architect or whomever before a visa is offered to permit an individual to work in Canada.

Mr. Wiseman: When I went into this once before, I found that once a foreign professor gets on the faculty the people around him tend to come from whatever country he or she comes from. It seemed to give less opportunity for our own people who are smart enough to become professors to get inside the door.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I guess my friend the member for Lanark will be happy to learn that our figures for 1983-84 indicate that 1.8 per cent of all faculty in Ontario universities were on visas; that is, of some 13,067 members of faculty, 232 lived in Canada on an employment authorization.

Mr. Wiseman: Is there any other way they could get to teach than with visas and not be Canadian citizens? That did not quite answer the full question, did it?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me answer the question based on my limited legal expertise. Anyone who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident—that is, a landed immigrant in Canada—is allowed to work wherever he can get a job. Virtually everyone else requires a visa or employment authorization. There are a few specific exempt categories. A university professor would not be one of them.

Mr. Wiseman: Taking away the 232 from the 13,067, if I copied that correctly, everyone else is a Canadian citizen.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Or a permanent resident, a landed immigrant.

Mr. Wiseman: A landed immigrant has not become a Canadian citizen.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is right. I remind the member that this country—

Mr. Wiseman: Do you have a handle on how many there are?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: How many landed immigrants?

Mr. Wiseman: Those who are teaching and who have not seen fit to take out Canadian citizenship.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If the member insisted, we could probably garner those statistics somewhere. I am not sure how relevant it is.

Mr. Wiseman: If you add the two together, you will come up with quite a sizeable figure. I

have talked to some university professors. I have had dinner and lunch with many of them and they will tell you they are going back to whatever country it is after they have put in five or 10 years here. They have no intention of becoming Canadian citizens. At the same time, they are squeezing out professors who are eligible to teach in our universities. They are taking their jobs. Some professors who talk to me feel that after a certain length of time, say three or four years, to continue to teach they should become Canadian citizens; otherwise they should give up their jobs.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Lanark should know that every landed immigrant has the right to apply to be a Canadian citizen after three years of residence in Canada. I remind him that this country was built by immigrants from all over the world. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Canadian citizens who were educated in our universities are teaching as professors in universities all over the world. They go to other countries, garner expertise, share ideas with students and faculty from other countries and bring those ideas home, thereby expanding our intellectual capacity.

Mr. Wiseman: Many of them go because they cannot get jobs at home; and they go for experience and so on.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is true; there is no doubt about that. Some of them go because they believe in the international exchange of ideas and feel they will benefit from their experience. They bring that experience home to Canada. If you are suggesting we should close our borders, not only to foreign students but also to foreign faculty, I disagree.

Mr. Wiseman: I am saying we should look after our own students as well. It does us well in the universities to have a sprinkling of foreign professors; as you said, we have a culture that is made up of a lot of different ones. We are Canadians and we should be pushing that a bit too. Canadians are unique in that we are made up of so many different cultures. I would not want to see us being pushed in the direction of the United States or some other area, but rather in the direction Canada wants to go.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The jurisdictions that are really taking post-secondary education seriously and are being very aggressive about it are very active in the international arena. They encourage foreign students to attend their institutions because they know those students will go home

and be the seeds for economic, social and cultural links.

That is happening here in Ontario. Ryerson Polytechnical Institute has projects under way in 22 countries that provide opportunities for Ontario professors to teach and learn abroad and to bring the expertise of other countries home. It is an important initiative and one I think we must nurture.

Mr. Wiseman: No one has any qualms about that, but a heck of a lot of the people who come from those countries get visas and stay. They have no intention of going back to their country.

Earlier I gave an example of a man who came to see me this fall. As the eldest in the family, he had to go out and make a living so he did not have the opportunity to attend a post-secondary institution. Now he has money to put his daughter through. He is not asking for student loans or grants. He does not feel she should get into the first university of her choice. However, he does feel she should get into one of the three. Her father told me her first two preferences were full of foreign students. Why not make room for some of our taxpayers? I think you have answered my question. I will send Hansard to him and he will see what you think about teaching our students.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the member confuses two separate and distinct issues. One is a policy—

Mr. Wiseman: I will let him be the judge when he reads it.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is right. However, I think you confuse the issue—I hope you include this portion of Hansard—about accessibility for every Ontario student who is qualified. That is an important policy of this government. Every student who is qualified to undertake a university or college education should have the opportunity to do so.

The other issue is the issue of the participation of foreign students in our universities. The numbers have dropped dramatically and our institutions are less vital because of it. The numbers, and I hope you report this to your constituents, are at 1.8 per cent with respect to faculty. The percentage with respect to students is similar.

I think we have an international obligation to participate in the education of foreign students, just as institutions abroad have an international obligation to accept Canadian students. The free exchange of ideas, the free trade of ideas, is something that this government believes in.

Mr. Wiseman: We heard that speech before.

Mr. McFadden: One thing about the role of the federal government in education that we ought to be looking at is the distribution of responsibilities, perhaps under our Constitution. It seems that over the past number of years the federal government has moved into areas of clearly provincial responsibility by using a financial instrument. Education and health care are the two areas that stand out the most, but there have been other areas as well.

The difficulty we get into is that the province then starts to rely on those resources, for either a specific program or for general revenue secured. These are revenues they are not going to have to be accountable for in terms of raising the money. It is always nice to get money when you do not have to raise it.

However, then we move on to a situation where one of two things can happen. The funding source starts earmarking it and setting conditions on it, which essentially becomes policymaking. It is no longer just, "Here is some money; go out and spend it on good health." It becomes, "These are the conditions you are going to have to meet," or the other level of government will say, "Because of our budget requirements and priorities, this is an area we are not prepared to fund any more."

There was an interesting paper by Dr. Watts of Queen's University on whether all or some of the universities should be considered national rather than provincial institutions, whether one can make a powerful argument for that.

This is a question we should probably face in this country. If it seems to be a desirable objective that the federal government, as a national government, should have a direct role and a necessary role in this, perhaps we should amend the Constitution to give the federal government either joint or sole responsibility for universities. One can make an argument for that by saying they have international or national importance. I am just throwing this out as a suggestion. If this is a major stumbling block for us, perhaps we should reorder the constitutional arrangements.

Speaking as a member of this House, it seems to me that, in the long run, we ourselves should seek to finance whatever things we have under our jurisdiction, so that we can decide what priorities we have. Then we can raise the money and spend the money on our own. We would not have to be dictated to, have conditions given and have funding suddenly withdrawn when we need it and so on.

We spend a lot of time arguing with the federal government and bellyaching because it does not give us enough money or gives us money for things we do not want or something of that nature. This has been an ongoing feature of federal-provincial relations ever since the federal government got started in transfer payments, which goes back—the chairman might be able to tell us when, but it goes way back.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You were sitting at that time.

Mr. Chairman: Not quite.

Mr. McFadden: I did not think you went quite that far back.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: They have been picking on you, Mr. Chairman. Your own caucus is picking on you.

4 p.m.

Mr. McFadden: I am commenting on this as a person interested in constitutional law. My only point in raising it is that I think we are in a very bad situation. The same thing is happening in the United States. The federal government supports programs. All of a sudden the government changes and it puts on conditions and withdraws funding. Then the states, just like the provinces, have to start jumping to the federal tune.

I suggest to the minister that one of the options could be looked at. I am not advocating it because I am not at all happy with the idea of the province moving out in whole or part on its jurisdiction over universities. If our only objective is to bellyache to the federal government demanding more money, maybe we should be thinking about one option, giving the federal government jurisdiction.

I am not advocating that, because to split the education envelope would not be wise. Perhaps that is an option the country should think about in this whole dialogue. Maybe that is a wise decision in the long run. Maybe we are too parochial here and we do not want to give up jurisdiction over an area we think is important.

Some consideration over the jurisdiction should be added to the agenda, because it worries me that so much of our time is spent with the federal and provincial governments complaining about what the other level is doing, or the municipality complaining about we are doing. We have got into a cascading effect with our financing that makes it hard to develop coherent policies.

I am not necessarily asking the minister to give a dissertation on constitutional law.

Mr. Chairman: You are tempting him, though.

Mr. McFadden: I am tempting him on this, yes.

Mr. Chairman: Does the minister want to enter this constitutional debate?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I also had a great interest in constitutional law. That is one of the reasons I went to law school. I was fascinated by the constitutional dilemma this country often finds itself in.

The suggestion the member throws out with respect to sharing jurisdiction with the federal government is perhaps the least viable one. Education is well-rooted in the provincial soil of every province in Canada. One has to remember that the funds the federal government transfers to the province for post-secondary education are raised from the taxpayers of Ontario.

The dilemma is that the federal government has the financial resources and taxing powers that outweigh those available to the province under the current regime. The history of equalization payments, and later established programs financing transfers, is based on the federal ability to tax and equalize revenues amongst provinces. That is a crucial role for any federal government—Canadian, American or any other—to play in a country with regional disparities of the kind we have in Canada. Equalization and the ability to tax are important questions.

That does not call for a ceding of constitutional authority to the other level of government. It speaks to an understanding of the constitutional relationship, an understanding of the constitutional base for a province creating a post-secondary system and an understanding of the role of that other level of government to equalize and distribute resources it has the power to tax so that provinces, individually and collectively, can carry out their constitutional role and mandate.

Mr. McFadden: Should it not have an accompanying power to set policy the way it has in health care? Are you advocating then, since it has a broad financial mandate, that this is one area, unlike health care, where it should have no say over how the money is spent and where it goes?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The federal government directs a great deal of the money it spends on post-secondary education and does it through various granting councils.

Mr. Chairman: The minister needs five minutes for a call and then we will start with Ms. Bryden.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Are we going to adjourn for five minutes or just carry on?

Mr. Chairman: We are not going to let you off with the time, but we will wait until you get back.

Mr. McFadden: Should we adjourn?

Mr. Chairman: What?

Mr. McFadden: Stop the clock.

Mr. Chairman: The clock will not stop.

The committee recessed at 4:05 p.m. 4:08 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My apologies for that break.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Bryden.

Mr. McFadden: We will have to have a seminar.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, have a legal seminar; Ms. Bryden will get back to the basics.

Ms. Bryden: There is another issue regarding accessibility and student costs I would like to raise. I am sure you know that housing is one of the major costs of attending university if you are not going to university in your home city. There have been very serious housing shortages in areas such as Toronto and Waterloo. From those shortages come suggestions that the ministry should set up some sort of a program to help with the building of co-op housing, or the purchase of housing to be operated on a co-op basis or to assist universities in building housing on campus if there is land. The latter would be mainly financed by return on investment in rents. It would not necessarily have to be subsidized; it would take the heat off the surrounding area where rents tend to go up because of the shortage of housing.

At the University of Waterloo they were having problems with zoning requests; it was suggested that the big houses that surround the university should not have more than three or so persons who were unrelated. That kept students from taking these houses and trying to rent them out in groups. Have you considered adding this as a program that is really very essentially needed and probably would not cost the government money over the long run because it would be self-financing?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member is probably aware that the government has not become involved in the building or the financing of student housing for many years, and that in effect it is an ancillary service provided by and financed within a university.

I think the substance of your question is, will this minister and this government take a different view? I regret to tell you that I do not have an answer to that yet. I know my colleague the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) is looking very closely at the way in which the new assured housing for Ontario program might be of assistance, particularly in areas such as the one you mentioned in Kitchener-Waterloo, where the situation is so desperate.

Some institutions have been able to operate housing programs, have built new housing on a cost-recovery basis and have been very effective at it. One example is Erindale College, which is part of the University of Toronto. There are factors, perhaps particular to Erindale, that have allowed them to do that.

I am sensitive to the issue from a number of perspectives, one of which is that I believe very strongly in having a vibrant resident student component to institutions. I think it gives an institution real vitality in a way that cannot be achieved through day students. Perhaps that is just a reflection of my own experience when I was attending university.

However, I do not have an answer from the perspective of this ministry. I am not sure that if it were a question of allocating resources to housing or to some of the other initiatives we must take I would choose housing. I do not pretend to tell the member that this would be my first choice.

Nevertheless, I think we have to take a look and see whether, through the Ministry of Housing or through some sort of assistance which may not be financial assistance, we can somehow act as a catalyst to increase the level of student housing at institutions.

It is an important point because if we do have a housing crisis in this province—and obviously we all know we do, particularly in the area of residential tenancy where there is a desperate shortage—then every new unit that one places on a campus means that perhaps a unit in a local area adjacent to a campus becomes available to redress the shortfall in accommodation for tenants.

Ms. Bryden: Would you be prepared to assign somebody on your staff to look into the possibility of working out some sort of program, not for immediate implementation but within the next year or two?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: One of the things I could do is appoint a task force, but then your leader would come down very heavily on us for investigating thoroughly yet another area.

For the moment, I would like to keep the investigations within the Ministry of Housing and with those in my ministry who will be following the initiatives in that ministry. However, I continue to be open and accessible to suggestions and creative solutions with respect to putting more student housing on campuses and in the vicinity of campuses.

Mr. McFadden: Back and forth like volleyball.

Ms. Bryden: We can take turns on questions unless we are joined by others.

Mr. McFadden: I want to raise a topic that is dear, I am sure, to the heart of everybody in this room, and that relates to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. I have two or three questions in relation to that.

When the budget proposed the transfer of OISE to the University of Toronto, it stated that elimination of duplication was the essential rationale for this. In connection with that, were any officials of your ministry involved with Treasury in developing that particular strategy of moving OISE into the University of Toronto and using that as the rationale for it?

It was not obtuse about it; it simply said that the elimination of duplication was the reason. Was the Ministry of Colleges and Universities involved in planning for that transfer at that time? Did it advise the Treasurer one way or the other on that? I know there is budget secrecy involved here, but I am trying to determine the basis on which the Premier made a decision that there was elimination to be duplicated, or duplication to be—we could do that as well, if you want to do that.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I want to go on the record as saying I am against the duplication of elimination.

Mr. McFadden: That is what I want to get down to. How many things are you going to duplicate in this fashion? Let us try another approach?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Perhaps you are going to be eliminated.

Mr. McFadden: Will the minister be kind enough to tell us the basis on which the Treasurer was advised that this move would eliminate duplication? Was this advice given by the ministry itself?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I would not suggest that the advice was given by the ministry. There was consultation between the Treasurer and myself. What you should understand is that the question of the amalgamation, the union of these two

institutions, has been the subject of a great deal of study. Indeed, a report concerning this had been undertaken, I think it was in 1983 if I am not mistaken.

Mr. McFadden: Is that the Marsden report?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Marsden report dealt with the issue and provided a number of suggestions with respect to amalgamation and integration of the institutions. We were satisfied, based on the things contained therein and other assessments, that the union of the two organizations, if done properly, would create an even more viable OISE within the context of a large multifaceted, complex, post-secondary institution.

Mr. McFadden: I think the problem the minister is facing, though, is that the budget did not mention any of these reasons. I know in his statement today he commented on the educational basis for the transfer. Further to that, the Treasurer sent an outline of the educational basis on which it was done to the chairman of the board of governors of OISE.

Why is it that the minister now has an educational basis and the Treasurer in his letter in January to OISE had an educational basis, but the budget cited no educational reason whatsoever. The budget must be misleading because what the minister is saying here is that it is not the elimination of duplication that is the basis of this, that a broader educational objective is being followed through.

4:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The answer is that one aspect of the union was reflected in the budget, the one dealing with the element of duplication. We frankly think there will be substantive benefits from the integration, particularly with respect to the faculty of education at the U of T and OISE working together, and that this will give rise to the delivery of a better system with reduced costs. The Treasurer talked about eliminating the board, and that is one element of duplication we point to. But from a corporate point of view the amalgamation can create more effective machinery for carrying out the mandates of both the faculty of education and OISE. That has always been our objective.

Mr. McFadden: In your rationale on page 18, duplication is not mentioned. Education objectives involved in the transfer are talked about.

One thing I find interesting is the use of words. OISE and the University of Toronto talked together about affiliation, then about some form of integration. You will recall that when they set

up this group they were really talking more of an integration; however, the budget talks about transfer, which is very proactive. The implication of the budget was that it was not a voluntary transfer or an amalgamation; a transfer meant a forced move.

The statement of the minister talks about amalgamation, not transfer. "Amalgamation" is a far more benign term. We use it in law to mean an agreement between parties to merge two operations into one. How does the minister regard this? Are we talking about a transfer or about a voluntary amalgamation? There is quite a difference in words.

I am not trying to be pedantic. The budget talked about transfer, the Treasurer talked about transfer and the minister talked about amalgamation. When the two groups were talking together before this blowup, they were talking about integration, which is not necessarily the same as a transfer or an amalgamation.

Where does the ministry stand on this? Are we to indicate from this that the ministry is not in favour of forced transfer but, although you do not want to say it, would like these two institutions to get together and amalgamate in a co-operative fashion? Is that your objective?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My statement at the beginning of these committee hearings set out the position of the ministry and of the government. It is semantics to try to hone down the meaning of "transfer" rather than "union" or "amalgamation."

The budget initiative was followed immediately by a meeting between the heads of these two institutions to work out a framework for an amalgamation and not a transfer in the pejorative sense that you suggest. If you look at what steps the government has taken, you will see that the policy right from the day after the budget was to work out the terms of a union.

That process has been frustrated by a number of events, not the least of which is the kind of political rhetoric that has arisen around it, to the advantage of both your party and the third party in the House. We are on an agenda that contemplates a mutual agreement between these two institutions to amalgamate, unite, transfer—whatever you like, to bring those two institutions together. As the Treasurer has communicated to the chairman of the board of OISE, we expect these two institutions to work together to effect that policy.

In the absence of their ability to do so, we have suggested that each institution submit its recommendation for how government policy can be

effected; then I as minister will determine whether there can be some reconciliation of the two positions. If I deem it advisable, I may seek the advice of the Ontario Council on University Affairs.

It is not an easy affair. None of us likes change. Even change of this magnitude gives rise to fears. I think the issue has been dominated by fear rather than by the appropriate emotion, which is the challenge to make OISE an even more effective institution within the context of the University of Toronto.

I point out once again, as I pointed out in the House, that the union, transfer, amalgamation—call it what you will—of Osgoode Hall Law School, an emanation of the Law Society of Upper Canada, with York University and the support this law school has had through its affiliation with the university have made that law school even more vital and, with all due respect to other law schools in the province, one of the most vital law schools in the province. My sense is that the politics of it has been the politics of fear. The real issue is creating a model that is effective for both the University of Toronto and OISE.

Mr. McFadden: I was in the first graduating class of York University. I went to Osgoode downtown for two years. The union was done voluntarily; the government did not force it.

Second, I suggest the union was a failure. Ontario probably could do with a top-flight practice school that is involved with the courts and very intimately involved with the profession. The union, which was for financial reasons, deprived the province of that. In talking with students up there, I argue that I am not sure this experiment was a total success. I am a graduate of the school. As alumni we could sit here and argue this at some length.

One implication by the minister was that the faculty of OISE and everybody else thought it was quite fine but that the member for Beaches-Woodbine and I went to OISE and drummed them up. The fact is that they came to see me and they keep coming to see me. They phone me and I go to see them. It is not just the faculty of OISE, students of OISE or Ms. Bryden and I who are involved in this. The faculty association of the University of Toronto is opposed to it and to the way it has been done. Directors of education from all over Ontario are opposed to it.

I did not go out and get them; they are writing to me. The petition that was started—it is about three inches thick—was not generated by me. I did not even know I was going to get it until I got

it within the last week. To imply that somehow the problems the government has run into with OISE emanate from anything that either the Conservative Party or the New Democratic Party has done is misleading and unfair.

I believe the way this has been done is fraught with tremendous danger. The Marsden report did not envisage a forced transfer, amalgamation or whatever. If the committee that had been established and the terms of reference that had been drawn up in the fall between OISE and the U of T had been allowed to go ahead, we might well have come up with some form of integration or perhaps even amalgamation.

This has created much bad blood. It is bad blood not just at the administrative level; it has got down to the faculties. It has reached the point now where, if some form of government financial shotgun is used to force them together one way or another if they do not voluntarily reach agreement, there would be another festering sore on the side of the U of T. I think the president of the University of Toronto recognizes that. I know members of the administration at Simcoe Hall are worried about it. For years after any forced transfer took place there would be constant arguments and bickering among the faculty. Everything that went wrong with that institution would be blamed on this. The OISE faculty is about 50 larger than the U of T faculty of education, so a larger faculty would be put in with another group.

4:30 p.m.

There is also the whole financial issue. We have not even talked about whether the \$28 million that OISE has in its budget will be totally applied to studies in education and those various usages, or whether it will wind up at Simcoe Hall or be used in some other fashion. What has been created here is a situation that is going to make it virtually impossible to achieve the objective: namely, developing a synergy between these two institutions.

I have an example—it is in the private sector, but it is very apropos—and that is the well-publicized takeover of Cockfield, Brown and Co. Ltd. by McConnell. Here was a situation where there was a creative team. They were listed on the stock exchange. There was a huge furore in the takeover. It looked like a big victory for one side. What happened? It bankrupted both of them. Both of those companies are gone and all of the jobs have been lost.

I am afraid you are facing the same situation here. We are not talking about things. We are not talking about a building. We are not talking about

taking one piece of equipment from here, moving it over there and creating a new factory. We are talking about an institution that consists strictly of people, that is all we are talking about; and the people who are going to create all this synergy do not want it. They do not want to be part of this. They feel it is being forced on them.

I cannot understand why the government simply does not withdraw the proposal and suggest to these people: "Go ahead. Why do you not negotiate something? You know what we want. We want to strengthen the faculties of education." The University of Toronto has to find some way to strengthen the faculty of education. A forced merger is not going to create a strong institution with good feeling and intellectual vigour. You are not going to have that, and I do not know why there is this stubbornness. Why is this institute being subjected to this?

With the faculty of architecture and others it is hands off; education planning should be left up to the institutions. This one however, is on this course. For the sake of the future of education, I do not know why you cannot just back off and let these two groups get together and work together.

I will complete with this. This one-year extension is not going to help. All it will do is create a situation that will fester. You are going to create uncertainty in OISE itself. A couple of people who had agreed to come to the institute have already said that they do not want to take up a position because they do not know what its status is. I suggest that this one-year extension is as bad as what was there before. You have created a year of uncertainty and uproar. It would be far more productive to back off, suspend the whole thing and let the two institutions come together and negotiate something.

I do not understand your reluctance and the minister's reluctance simply to recommend to the Treasurer that he back off at this point. That may be hard to do, but in the interests of both institutions, the U of T and OISE, it should be done.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: A lot of points were made in that speech by my friend the member for Eglinton. I once again point to the fact that there is far too much rhetoric on this issue and far too little energy being devoted to the substantive issue.

The member speaks of what the faculty says, and some of the campaigning that has been going on has run to rhetoric such as "Save OISE." OISE is not threatened, and the dilemma we find ourselves in is the perception by my friend that

OISE is threatened. I can assure him that what is going on now are the very kinds of negotiations that he has just called for in the most eloquent of ways. That is what is happening. As those negotiations proceed, there may be junctures at which the catalyst of government may need to be called upon to find solutions in areas where no solutions are identified in the negotiation process.

We have the resources in the ministry, with the assistance of the Ontario Council on University Affairs, to assist in that regard, but I make the point that the process will be one of mutual negotiation and that the budget initiative was a catalyst to a process that perhaps was too difficult for the institutions to undertake voluntarily.

I repeat that in our view the result we are looking towards can and will be effective and synergistic if the terms that bring these institutions together have assurances within them that speak to the continued and enhanced vitality of OISE. I said this at the beginning of these hearings and I say it again. The member for Eglinton simply refuses to believe that this government could be so sensitive to that perspective.

Ms. Bryden: I want to pursue this issue. I agree with most of the comments of the member for Eglinton. We have a new situation here that is not the same as when negotiations started.

We had the January 15, 1986 hearings at which representatives of OISE and of the University of Toronto appeared before the standing committee on social development. The facts came out that OISE is convinced it would not be negotiating as an equal because of its need for an affiliation agreement; the University of Toronto is not prepared to give OISE the old kind of affiliation agreement, except for one year as requested by the Treasurer. In order to overcome its fears, OISE would need a 20-year affiliation agreement that would preserve its name, its mandate and the programs now in effect, as well as budgetary autonomy over a budget equivalent to the present budget with suitable cost-of-living increases. That is its bottom line. OISE feels it cannot survive as an independent institution without those guarantees.

It came out in the hearings that the president of the University of Toronto is not prepared or able to guarantee that OISE's budget would not be reduced or that OISE would be able to maintain its independence and get a long-term agreement.

In the light of this new information, I think any negotiations that start up again during the next year will simply be stalemated until OISE can get

assurances that it will have long-term affiliation, budgetary autonomy and assistance in working to integrate the faculty of education into the OISE institution. I think all parties are interested in having one province-wide teacher training and research facility for both undergraduate and graduate training. It does make sense, but it has to be done by having the two groups work together with full independence and control of their own budgets and of the process of change. That will not be achieved by negotiation until there is negotiation between equals. It certainly is not between equals now.

The alternative scenario would be a province-wide educational institute that would embrace all levels of teacher training, education research and teacher outreach with its own degree-granting powers. It seems to me that this is the only way to break the impasse and to give it control over its own budget. In effect, the minister and the Treasurer would have full control, because this budget would not come through the University of Toronto but would come from your ministry, the same as budgets of other provincial institutions do. It could come to your ministry with its programs. If your ministry decided it was necessary to prune or to change some of them, your ministry has the power with its budget.

4:40 p.m.

It would also be possible for you to give incentives to the faculty of education to gradually join its facilities with the graduate program at OISE. They would do it through their own negotiations with OISE, part of which would be influenced by the kind of budget your ministry could promise them. Things cannot be enhanced without spending additional money.

The final nail in the coffin of present negotiations is the fact that by recommending closure of the faculty of architecture the university indicated it is short of funds for professional schools. So where is it going to get additional funds to enhance the faculty of education in the way that both your ministry and the Treasurer would like to see it enhanced? Until that is done through provincial funding of a joint institution with degree-granting powers, I cannot see any way out of the impasse. Would you consider this alternative scenario?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not think the member is suggesting we transfer the University of Toronto to OISE. If she is, I will take that under advisement.

Ms. Bryden: No, I am not.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do hear what you are saying.

Ms. Bryden: I am asking that you do something that would facilitate the union. I meant that the faculty of education would gradually transfer to OISE through negotiations.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I hear the nature of your suggestion. When I get a copy of these proceedings in Hansard, I will look at this more closely. You speak of a 20-year guarantee of OISE's mandate.

Ms. Bryden: It is a long time, but that kind of affiliation would be one alternative.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Frankly, I am not sure this ministry is in the business of guaranteeing, in that respect, the vitality of individual institutions. There is an ebb and flow. I am not one who believes we have to look towards a 20-year affiliation agreement. It is important that these two institutions work out the terms of their union together in the process of negotiation and hammering out details where details have to be hammered out.

You speak of autonomy. The issue of autonomy has been raised in the discussion of OISE in many different contexts. The fact is that in many respects the University of Toronto currently is far more autonomous than OISE. The University of Toronto receives—I am searching for figures here—perhaps 60 or 65 per cent of its funding from the provincial Treasury. The balance is from private institutions, alumni, the federal government directly through granting councils and a variety of different sources. OISE on the other hand is completely dependent upon the provincial Treasury for its funding. Am I correct, broadly speaking, on that?

Ms. Bryden: That is correct, but that funding is for the purposes of OISE's mandate which is all education. Funding for the University of Toronto is for 50 or 60 faculties, institutes and programs, and it chooses which gets what share.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I ask rhetorically, or perhaps directly to the member: which other faculty or component of the University of Toronto does she suggest becomes a separate body and receives funding directly through the provincial Treasury?

Ms. Bryden: Now just a minute: I am not suggesting that.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The faculty of law perhaps, the school of dentistry or the faculty of medicine?

Ms. Bryden: I am suggesting that OISE be continued as an existing separate facility and that the faculty of education be encouraged to join

with OISE to have a province-wide education institute covering all levels of education.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not sure why the member thinks that within the context of a world-class institution, such as the University of Toronto, once the administrators get their grip on OISE they will destroy it. It is a fallacy—there is no other word for it—that somehow the university is waiting to gobble up OISE and use the funds to expand its medical faculty or whatever.

Ms. Bryden: Is it not true—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If the member will let me finish. Once we identify appropriate terms of union so that OISE roots well in the soil of that institution, it would be healthy for OISE to compete for resources in a multifaceted place such as the University of Toronto. I do not think that is unhealthy.

That said, I think the terms of union have to ensure sufficient time and sufficient structural guarantees so that the university takes on its appropriate role and responsibilities with respect to that institution after a period of time. Is it five or 10 years? I do not know. I am waiting for the institutions to tell me that.

If Dr. Connell says, "In year one there are no guarantees;" then we do not have a deal yet. But down the road at the appropriate time, that institution, like the faculty of medicine, could compete for resources. That is not unhealthy. That does not speak to the demise of OISE. That speaks to the way the arrangement should ultimately look.

Ms. Bryden: Is it not true that the revenue from fees at the faculty of education are not necessarily allocated to the faculty of education? Would that not be a fear of OISE; that the fees for its programs would not all go to education?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is one of the issues that would have to be addressed during the negotiation process, which is and will be going on.

Ms. Bryden: What clout does OISE have? If they do not agree to whatever the University of Toronto requests they lose their degree-granting powers. I do not consider OISE part of Toronto only. It serves the whole province for graduate work in education and for outreach to teachers.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As does the faculty of medicine, or the faculty of law at Windsor. You restrict yourself when you say "serves all of the province." OISE serves all of Canada and has an important international dimension as well.

Ms. Bryden: Is that not a reason for keeping it as an independent provincial institution; able to

perform all of those functions but without having to rely on the University of Toronto to decide how important they are to the rest of the province and the rest of the world?

Mr. McFadden: Could I have one supplementary following up on that?

One of the features that makes OISE very different from other faculties is its field offices throughout Ontario. No one else is offering that. The faculty of medicine at U of T does not have offices in northern, eastern and southwestern Ontario. In the competition for funds at the University of Toronto, what protection would you have for the field offices which offer services for educators throughout Ontario?

A number of programs have developed that are province-wide and unique to OISE. If they are subjected to this kind of competition for funds you might find them disappearing after a while, particularly if U of T wishes to have the kind of autonomy you feel it should have. There are certain things about OISE that do not fit a typical faculty.

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: What you are suggesting is that the program offered by OISE is not vital enough to command within the context of the University of Toronto the resources it can command on its own. I do not think that is the case. What you are suggesting is that its program, its field work throughout the province, could not stand the test of academic excellence within the university. I do not agree with that. I think it can; I think it will. It is that basis upon which we approach the issue.

I do not disagree with you that there is a time period and a structure necessary to ensure, and I use the analogy again, that it roots well in that soil called the University of Toronto. It would be inappropriate for me to dictate those terms. That is not the way we do business. You know that, Mr. McFadden.

Mr. McFadden: That is what I thought. That is why I am upset about what you have done.

Mr. McKesock: I would like to go back for a minute to the Ontario student assistance program. I have another question.

It concerns the Ontario Bible College and Theological Seminary here in Toronto. Even though the students are eligible for grants, they can get only loans. It is not because they come from rich families. A lot of good students graduate from that college every year with a substantial debt.

I have been contacted by a number of these people and, in turn, I have contacted the ministry, as they also have. We have heard that there has been a review and that in future grants may be given to colleges such as the Ontario Bible College.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will ask Bill Clarkson to either confirm this information or to address the issue more broadly.

Mr. Clarkson: Most of the information provided is correct. Students attending institutions such as the Ontario Bible College are eligible for loan-only assistance. This is part of the overall review of the Ontario student assistance program the minister mentioned earlier.

We are experiencing a few difficulties. It is not just the bible colleges that are loan-only. Other institutions, in the arts for example, have requested assistance under the grant plan. We have to consider both of these issues and request additional funding through Management Board of Cabinet to enrich the base of the program to include these students.

We see it as part of the overall review of the Ontario student assistance program. It will be considered in conjunction with other priorities.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Bryden and Mr. McFadden; five minutes each.

Ms. Bryden: I want to talk about the faculty of architecture for a minute, although I bypassed one point on OISE. It came out of that January 15 committee hearing that the OISE people did not think there would be any cost reduction by eliminating the board of governors, because an advisory committee representing all the bodies on that board of governors would be required to develop the program, the outreach work and the various services OISE provides to Franco-Ontarians, native people and women. That work would still need to be done by a group of people from all over the province. It is not a very great saving to wipe out the present board. The witness said it would be peanuts.

I was not here on January 6 this year but I have read the Hansard. Mr. McFadden and Mr. Allen asked questions about post-secondary education. In answer to Mr. Allen you said, "We are not in the business of closing institutions." This was regarding OISE.

I understand that you are assuring us that the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education will continue in some form. Mr. McFadden and I are concerned that it will not have enough autonomy to be able to preserve its budgetary control.

On the faculty of architecture, there is in the paper a suggestion that Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, which has a program in architectural science, might be considered as a way to retain an institution training architects in the biggest city in Canada which is a centre for architectural development and design. Many people would be shocked if there were not such a school within Toronto providing for replacements in that industry and that school of design.

Have you given any thought to getting the various parties together and acting as a catalyst? If the University of Toronto does not want to rebuild its architectural faculty, could Ryerson build up its faculty? I think you would find the profession very interested in participating in such a consultation. Perhaps that is the answer if the university is still firm, after its governing body meets on February 20, about its decision to close the school.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The point should be made that the program at Ryerson educates architectural technologists, whereas the faculty at the University of Toronto, like the faculties within Carleton University and the University of Waterloo, gives degrees in architecture leading to the possibility of a graduate entering that profession as we know it.

That is not a criticism of the Ryerson program. It has a specific mandate and it is doing a great job of educating the students and successfully placing them in their chosen profession.

I do not know as yet the ramifications of, and I use the term advisedly, "upgrading" the program at Ryerson. I use it only in the sense of converting it from a program in architectural technology to a program that grants degrees to architects. Frankly, I have not yet investigated that.

I am monitoring this very closely, and hope to hear from the University of Toronto soon with background information on the decision being recommended to the governing council. I hope we can find, collectively, a resolution that does not mean the end of a faculty of architecture in Metropolitan Toronto. That does not necessarily mean it has to be on the campus of the University of Toronto, and one alternative may be the very thing you suggest. I do not know the implications of that kind of step, but that is one of the things we will pursue.

Ms. Bryden: You should consult the faculty, the students and the profession on this proposal or any similar alternatives. As you say, you are not in the business of closing institutions.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Indeed I am not.

5 p.m.

Mr. McFadden: This will be the final question and it is a follow-through on the faculty of architecture. What, if any, role would the ministry be able to play in assisting the students at the faculty of architecture of the University of Toronto if there were problems for them in this four-year closure period, if in fact this goes ahead. It may not, something may happen that will keep the faculty open.

I mentioned in my opening statement—and I have talked to students, faculty and the U of T administration—that the U of T administration is optimistic that somehow over that four-year period they can keep enough going so that by the time the students now in first year hit fifth year they will have received a reasonable education. As you have said, there is no guarantee.

I am concerned there could be students who find that a very unattractive option. I have never been in that situation. I was at Osgoode during the last year it was located downtown, which was not entirely satisfactory, because everybody was looking forward to getting you out. You had the feeling they were looking forward to taking your chair and sweeping up under it as soon as you got out. There was a bit of that atmosphere even in that last year.

My concern is what might happen to students going through that. It is not going to be the greatest of atmospheres for a student. One student said to me—he laughed—that it was sort of funny, although it is not funny. Let us say you are in first year now and you fail and you could come back, but first year will not be taught. To some extent the options have been eliminated for them, the drawbridge is up behind them. Things they might have had will be gone. I hope none of them will fail, but that is an issue one or two students could face. I do not want to overdramatize it, but it is one of those human issues.

I am wondering if the ministry could assist in the process, where the situation is appropriate, i.e. it looks like the school is not offering a proper education for the students, of finding places for them in one of the other two Ontario schools. I know the other two Ontario schools are fully booked. They do not have open spaces so they are not looking for someone else to come in. However, I wondered if the minister might assist, financially perhaps, in terms of opening things up for the students. In the long run, it is the students who are going to be most hurt if this proposal goes ahead.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not sure it is the students who are going to be most hurt. Certainly

in the short term that is the case. In the longer term it is the vitality of this part of the world that is most affected by the absence of a full-fledged faculty of architecture in Metropolitan Toronto. However, your point is well taken. In the short term we have to be very concerned that the program is not only there in theory but that it is there in substance.

Dr. Connell has said to me that the essence of his recommendation is that the program now does not have the vitality and quality he would want it to have. The institution is not prepared to dedicate the resources necessary to make it vital, and perhaps does not have the administrative clout, though that is conjecture on my part.

So you are right. Our primary concern, in the event that the decision is taken by the governing council, must be that every student in that faculty gets the kind of education to which he or she would otherwise be entitled were the institution not closing. I do not know how we do that yet, but as we monitor the situation and as we search for ways that might give us a result other than the one proposed, we have to be concerned about that. I can only say that your point is well taken.

As the minister, I am concerned. I know my ministry officials and the government are concerned about it. The bottom line has to be that the students deserve the education they would get had the initiative not been taken. We may have to call upon those other institutions, the universities of Carleton and Waterloo, to assist us. There is the problem of faculty that might not stay around. It is very complex. That is why I have not proposed an immediate response, because it is very complex. Until we have seen more back-

ground and get a better handle on it, I cannot give an easy answer.

Mr. McFadden: You cannot chain the faculty to their desks or in the lecture halls. If they want to leave, they can.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is right.

Mr. Chairman: The time has almost expired. We have to get down to the financial matters connected with this. I shall remind the two critics that neither of them has a vote, so they are going to have difficulty.

Votes 3301 to 3303, inclusive, agreed to.

Supplementary estimates agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

We have a visit from you again next week, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Indeed, you do.

Mr. Chairman: Could we meet from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think that could be arranged.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Bryden, are you the critic for the Ministry of Skills Development?

Ms. Bryden: No, it is the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner).

Mr. Chairman: Would you mind telling him and the member for Brock (Mr. Partington) our meeting times?

The committee adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Skills Development

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, February 5, 1986
Morning Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, February 5, 1986

The committee met at 10:06 a.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman: We will commence the estimates of the Ministry of Skills Development. If there are no procedural matters to be raised, I will ask the minister to proceed with his opening statement.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am pleased to appear before this committee to present the estimates of the Ministry of Skills Development in its first year of operation. As members are aware, I am the third Minister of Skills Development in this fiscal year.

Since the ministry virtually existed only on paper when the new government took office, we have devoted much of our effort to the logistical tasks of building an organization and of fashioning a cohesive structure from the 31 training programs and 16 youth programs we inherited from different ministries and agencies. We are putting together a head office, designing systems and procedures and exploring the permanent sharing of support services, such as purchasing and accounting, with other ministries.

However, these organizational changes have not prevented us from addressing major program and policy challenges that face us. In the past few months we have strengthened, consolidated and improved the province's youth employment programs and have taken important first steps towards evolving a better-planned, world-class training system for Ontario.

Le cadre des activités du ministère est prévu par le projet de loi 9 qui, comme vous le savez, doit être présenté en seconde lecture. L'article 4 du projet de loi expose cinq objectifs pour le ministère; les deux premiers sont les plus importants: développer et améliorer chez l'individu les compétences professionnelles qui augmenteront ses chances de trouver de l'emploi, et contribuer à la croissance économique de l'Ontario en aidant les employeurs à atteindre leurs objectifs de formation professionnelle.

En d'autres termes, nous avons deux objectifs principaux qui sont la formation professionnelle des individus et le niveau de compétences professionnelles dans l'ensemble de l'économie.

Dans une économie aussi complexe que la nôtre, la main-d'oeuvre est d'autant plus employable qu'elle possède expérience et compétences. Notre mandat inclut donc des programmes d'expérience au travail pour les jeunes et les personnes qui éprouvent des difficultés à prendre leur place sur le marché du travail, et des programmes de formation professionnelle pour les travailleurs de tout âge.

Recognizing the important role of training in economic growth is a new direction in government policy. Our mandate in this area signals explicitly that investing in people has become a cornerstone of industrial policy.

The three remaining objectives of the ministry as outlined in Bill 9 essentially are a means of achieving the first two. They are: to improve access to training and employment opportunities; to co-ordinate institutional and on-the-job training programs; and to heighten awareness of the economic and social benefits of improved skills training. These three priorities will advance the overriding goals of individual employability and economic growth.

But what accounts for the new understanding of the role of training and economic development? The key factor is that a world economy now exists in which the skills of the work force hold the key to competitiveness. Ontario's workers and managers are now pitted against their counterparts, not only across town and country but also across the globe. To meet the competition, we require a work force with skills that equal or surpass international standards.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) placed this new perspective on the national agenda at the Premiers' conference in Newfoundland last August. He presented a discussion paper entitled Training as a Strategic Investment for Economic Growth. Again in November, at the first ministers' conference in Halifax, he emphasized the importance of training. As the Premier observed: "The Canadian economy requires excellence in all the building blocks of the industrial base. In particular, it requires a work force trained second to none."

Also driving the new emphasis on skills training is the pace of technological change, which is altering the nature and skill content of a wide range of jobs. The recent human resources

task force report of the automotive industry illustrates this trend. In the automotive industry, rising skill requirements are being generated by the introduction of new hard technologies, such as computers and robots, and new soft technologies, such as quality circles, statistical process control and just-in-time inventory. The net result is an increase in demand for basic reading, writing, analytical and interpersonal skills as well as technical knowhow.

The task force concludes, "North American auto workers and their skills will be a central part of the competitive battle and the companies which know how to train and manage the work force will be the survivors."

The Ontario Task Force on Employment and New Technology, co-chaired by William Boggs of de Havilland and Bob White of the United Auto Workers of Canada, also emphasizes the critical importance of skills development. The group's final report observes that adoption of new technology over the next decade will require employees in many occupations to acquire more skills and training. It states, "We are entering an era where much more attention will need to be paid to human resource development and planning in all organizations."

In the post-industrial age, successful employers will place a higher premium on people than they have in the past. The quality of the work force is job one in the emerging service and high-technology industries.

The training imperative is reinforced by demographic trends. For years Canadian employers have relied on a baby boom at home and immigration from abroad to supply the labour force with up-to-date skills; but the influx of skilled immigrants has slowed, and in the next decade the so-called big generation will largely move into the 35- to 44-year-old age group.

In the future, employers will have to rely on experienced, mature workers to meet shifting skill requirements of a rapidly changing economy. Tomorrow's technology balance will depend not so much on recently trained recruits to the labour force as on the retraining and upgrading of active members of the work force.

To maximize the quality of our human resources in years ahead, Ontario must maintain a world-class university system and a superior network of community colleges. This is an important part of the training task, but not all of it. At present, some two thirds of the people entering the work force have not been in the post-secondary system. This, coupled with accelerating changes in skills being demanded in

the modern economy, points to a dramatic need for an expanded training effort in and outside traditional institutional settings. In particular, on-the-job skills training must become an important thrust of a comprehensive work force training policy.

Such a commitment to broader training opportunity advances both social and economic goals. A world-class labour force is not only essential to the creation of wealth and development of the economy, but also marketable skills represent the key to personal mobility, self-reliance and rising take-home pay. Training allows individuals to raise their personal productivity. Through training, we can ensure the benefits of technological progress are equitable and widely shared.

Since our people represent our most vital economic asset, the current inadequacy of Canada's training efforts worries me greatly. For example, European Management Forum gives Canada "barely a passing grade" in vocational training, ranking us 10th among industrial nations.

A survey completed in December by the Ontario Manpower Commission on employer-sponsored training documents the weak support for training by Ontario industries. This major survey covers all industry groups and sizes of firms. Results show only 17 per cent of Ontario establishments sponsored formal training programs in 1984; only 13 per cent of full-time permanent employees participated in general skills development activities; and a mere 11 per cent took qualifying or upgrading programs.

The data also indicate smaller businesses are least likely to train. If we are to remain competitive, we must raise the general skill level of our people. As most of the work force is employed in small- and medium-sized firms of from 100 to 500 employees, training on large scale in these firms is necessary if the Ontario economy is to be world-competitive.

Cependant, le gouvernement ne peut résoudre tout seul les problèmes de formation en Ontario. Les entreprises, les syndicats, les établissements d'enseignement, les individus et le gouvernement doivent collaborer pour résoudre cette question.

Depuis que je suis ministre, j'ai rencontré des Comités locaux de formation industrielle qui sont probablement le principal contact de mon ministère avec les responsables de la formation à l'échelon local. Je me suis entretenu avec les comités consultatifs provinciaux, qui font en sorte que le système d'apprentissage réponde aux besoins de l'économie. Et j'ai visité des Centres

de consultation pour l'embauche des jeunes, qui aident les jeunes difficiles à employer.

J'ai rencontré des associations de gens d'affaires et des syndicats, des professeurs de collèges communautaires, des administrateurs et des étudiants, des entrepreneurs et des travailleurs. Presque tous m'ont donné l'impression qu'ils désiraient appuyer nos efforts en faveur de la formation. L'Ontario possède une réserve inexploitée de talents et d'enthousiasme qui nous permet de relever avec confiance le défi de la concurrence.

This ministry is now laying the groundwork for a major enhancement of the provincial training system. We have planning projects under way to help us chart our future role as a catalyst of positive change.

10:20 a.m.

First, we have committed resources to development of an adult training strategy for Ontario which, in my view, must form an integral part of the province's overall approach to industrial and economic development. Background research is well under way and our government will soon begin formulating policies and designing new initiatives.

The goal of this effort is to build a world-class training system that matches those of our competitors in both quality and participation levels. We intend to recognize the necessity of a leadership role for the provincial government in the evolution of our training network and to sharpen the focus on training and upgrading for adults. We will encourage a quantum leap in the volume and calibre of training activity.

As part of this, we are looking at access to training. We are working to identify and remove barriers to participation in training, including financial obstacles, lack of awareness about training opportunities and problems with program design.

We also believe vigorous effort is important to raise levels of literacy and basic skills among individuals no longer in the school system. A solid grounding in the traditional three Rs is an essential foundation for training, especially in learning sophisticated new skills created by high technology.

For example, the automotive industry task force reported that 29 per cent of employers surveyed described the reading and writing skills of hourly workers as "often inadequate" and 36 per cent of the firms were dissatisfied with mathematical skills of their work force. Certainly, literacy is a social objective which broadens personal horizons, but also it is an economic

objective which supports increased productivity and competitiveness.

In tandem with our policy development, we are conducting an operational review of our existing adult training programs. We are examining apprenticeship training, provincial programs directed at employers and the co-ordination of federal programs. We are determined to organize our delivery system to maximize the level of service to employers and employees, as well as to the general population.

When I undertook this portfolio in June, the most urgent priority facing the Ministry of Skills Development was to reform programs for employment-disadvantaged youth. One of my predecessors, who is here today—we love to quote you, Phil—aptly described the youth program as a "youth stew." With the introduction of Futures on November 4 we are meeting this responsibility. Through Futures, we have streamlined the delivery of youth employment services and enhanced both the level of funding allocated and the quality of assistance offered.

Futures keeps a commitment to youth made by the Premier, first as Leader of the Opposition more than two years ago and again as Premier this past July. He promised a program which "would guarantee hard-to-employ youth meaningful employment in return for individual efforts at educational upgrading."

Futures also fulfils the Premier's pledge to rationalize government programs so they are accessible and understandable to the public. Futures consolidates and replaces six former programs in order to remove inconsistencies, gaps and duplications while it preserves appropriate services previously provided.

As announced in October, in this fiscal year the province intends to spend \$133 million in providing support to 56,000 hard-to-employ young people. This expenditure, along with that of our 1985 summer programs, brings the ministry's budget for youth to \$175 million. For 1986-87, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has committed \$200 million to youth programs of this ministry.

These government spending commitments should be viewed in the context of recent improvement in the labour market for young people. Between December 1984 and December 1985, the overall youth unemployment rate declined from 13.7 per cent to 11.9 per cent. Unemployment has also dropped among hard-to-employ young people, those out of work 14 weeks or more. This hard-core unemployment declined from a monthly average of 55,000 in

1984 to 44,000 in 1985. These figures are still unacceptably high, but show a substantial improvement is occurring.

The figures also underline the importance of macroeconomic policies in solving the youth unemployment problem. Our youth programs can provide training and experience, but only national full employment policies can ensure adequate creation of permanent jobs.

This progress on the quantitative side of the youth unemployment picture gives us the opportunity to focus on the qualitative aspect. Our new program offers a wide range of services to help young people under age 25 who are having trouble making the transition from school to work. These include an initial needs assessment; life skills and employment preparation, if needed; employment counselling; work experience; on-the-job training; monitoring and post-program follow-up.

The key innovative feature is the introduction of a guarantee of one full year of meaningful work experience for those young people who have not completed high school and who make a personal commitment to educational upgrading. This option aims to break the cycle of unemployment by aiding young people who have left the school system before gaining skills required to participate in today's work place.

I am heartened by the strong response to Futures by young people and employers. In November and December, for example, the Ontario Youth Hotline handled four times the pre-Futures volume of calls. This is a clear indication that young people are eager to obtain assistance through this clear and simple approach to enhancing their prospects for permanent jobs.

At present, some 6,900 young Ontarians are in the Futures program. Of these, about 1,600 have chosen the one-year guarantee which shows Futures can get many young people back to school. So far this year, 51,000 employment-disadvantaged youth have been assisted by this ministry.

Comme je l'ai dit plus haut, j'ai rendu visite à des bureaux de l'Avenir installés dans des Centres de consultation pour l'embauche des jeunes et des collèges communautaires de la province pour me rendre compte des difficultés auxquelles nous nous heurtons pour aider les jeunes à surmonter de graves obstacles à l'emploi, tels que faiblesse en mathématiques de base ou sur le plan de la langue, difficultés au foyer, handicaps physiques ou mentaux.

Je suis heureux et impressionné de constater les progrès que font ces jeunes désavantagés en

ce qui concerne l'emploi, avec l'aide de leurs conseillers. Notre programme offre à des milliers de jeunes Ontariens un avenir de travail productif et d'indépendance personnelle.

L'Avenir ne pourrait réussir sans la participation et le dévouement des personnes qui oeuvrent dans les Centres de consultation pour l'embauche des jeunes et les collèges d'arts appliqués et de technologie dans toute la province. Ces organismes apportent au programme des compétences diverses et essentielles.

Youth Employment Counselling Centres, or YECCs as they are called, tend to specialize in helping young people with the most serious problems. Typically, about 70 per cent of their case loads are high school dropouts. Through one-on-one counselling, special pre-employment training and placement services, the centres prepare many young people for paid employment. Most of their clients will be assisted without the need for publicly subsidized job placement support.

Colleges of applied arts and technology, on the other hand, focus on high school graduates; 70 per cent of their Futures clients have grade 12 or equivalent. The colleges utilize considerable ongoing ties with local employers to provide important first-job experience for young people. They also offer Futures participants the choice of ready access to a host of post-secondary programs offered on campus.

10:30 a.m.

This ministry is committed to expanding its delivery system to ensure that all of Ontario's youth can be reached, particularly those in the north. We have recently approved the provision of Futures services through Youth Employment Counselling Centres in Sudbury, Welland, Burleigh Falls, Red Lake and Cardinal. We also have authorized colleges in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, North Bay, South Porcupine/Timmins and Sault Ste. Marie to extend Futures to numerous outlying communities. The expansion of our service network will greatly improve the program's accessibility for hard-to-employ young people in the north.

As you can sense, Futures is providing meaningful and accessible support for young people who are determined to break out of the no-win cycle of unemployment and inexperience.

Through an extensive reporting system, this ministry is monitoring the performance of Futures more intensively than youth employment programs have ever been monitored in the past.

Based on early program statistics, I am confident the Futures concept is sound.

On January 22, 1986, the Ontario government announced summer employment programs. This early announcement date should give students a head start in their search for summer jobs, which often provide earnings essential to remaining in school.

Labour market forecasts indicate that student unemployment will be lower this summer compared with last. Students should enjoy far greater opportunities for summer earnings than in recent years. Despite the improved market, we have made a decision to maintain last year's resource allocation of \$43.8 million to summer youth programs: Experience '86, the Ontario youth employment program and the student venture capital program.

This decision complements our recent move to enrich the Ontario student assistance program. We are determined to provide many Ontario young people with better access to the financial resources sufficient to complete their education. We also believe a summer job is a valuable experience which can build self-confidence, broaden horizons and teach genuine skills.

Experience '86 will create about 7,000 jobs in more than 100 Ontario government ministries and associated community organizations. Projects ranging from energy conservation research to providing travel information to tourists will expose young people to fields they are considering as careers.

The Ontario youth employment program will provide a wage subsidy of \$1.25 per hour to encourage private firms and nonprofit employers to hire students. Over the next few months, we will invite about 60,000 businesses to participate during this summer. It is my pleasure to renew this worthwhile program.

Student venture capital will enable enterprising students to obtain interest-free loans of up to \$2,000 to launch their own summer businesses. Last year this program helped more than 1,200 young entrepreneurs test their skills in such businesses as fast food, house painting and lawn care.

Student venture capital complements our year-round youth venture capital program which offers interest-free loans of up to \$5,000 to help young people start businesses. Both entrepreneurship programs are operated in co-operation with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Bank of Canada, which ensures the

participants have access to expert consultation and guidance.

Clearly, this ministry has a strong commitment to Ontario's young people. We were the natural choice to assume responsibility for Ontario's participation in International Youth Year in 1985. While government initiated some projects, it was especially satisfying to see the enthusiastic community response across the province. In all, more than 500 events, far more than anticipated, were organized by youth organizations and community groups.

A major contribution of this ministry was the Careers 2001 Exhibition in the Canadian National Exhibition automotive building in November. This event was sponsored in conjunction with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and Metro Toronto. About 44,000 students came to see displays depicting various career choices set up by 150 different companies.

Let me now turn from our work with young people to our current programs and initiatives in the adult training area.

The Ontario Manpower Commission plays a major advisory and research role in the evolution of government training policy. Its work has resulted in some important research on training and labour market issues, including the automotive human resources study and the employment and technology task force I mentioned earlier.

Naturally, the formation of the Ministry of Skills Development has affected the role and organization of the commission. We are now reviewing the commission's mandate and make-up. Our goal is to make the commission broadly representative and a key player in labour market information and analysis.

I look forward to having the Ontario Manpower Commission work more closely with Ontario's community industrial training committees, which provide essential community input on the effectiveness of our programs. When I attended the annual conference of CITCs in London last October, I concluded that in many ways the CITCs' role at the local level parallels that of the manpower commission at the provincial level.

There has been little interaction between the CITCs and the commission, perhaps because until recently they were linked to different government ministries. I believe it will benefit the entire industrial training community if we can better relate the CITCs' knowledge of regional skills with the commission's broader provincial perspective.

The training in business and industry program, or TIBI as it is known, continues to be effective

and popular with employers and employees. It provides public assistance for flexible training programs to help workers adapt to changing work requirements of new positions, equipment and processes through short-term upgrading and updating of skills.

Demand for this provincial program was heightened this year by the cut in federal training funds. To meet growing needs, we will spend \$24 million on TIBI in 1985-86, up from \$19 million allocated last year. The program is expected to reach approximately 90,000 workers and nearly 8,000 employers during the year.

To improve service to our private sector clients, my ministry is expanding its professional development support for college staff who deliver the TIBI program. This training helps equip the consultants to assist employers, especially small firms, in assessing needs and designing and implementing training plans.

In December, the Toyota Motor Corp. announced plans to locate its Canadian factory in Cambridge, Ontario. As part of an incentive package, the province will provide \$15 million for training assistance over a five-year period. This marks the first time that Ontario has awarded a greenfield grant containing a large training component. By tying funding to skills development, we are ensuring that the benefits of foreign investment are firmly anchored in the province. Toyota uses very advanced automotive production methods and we believe Ontario workers will profit from this knowhow.

I must say I am impressed with the emphasis Toyota puts on human resources. Clearly, they regard training as a big-ticket item and an indispensable economic investment.

L'apprentissage, méthode traditionnelle de formation prolongée sur le tas, reste valable pour une vaste gamme d'emplois et de métiers et il y a actuellement quelque 38,400 apprentis qui participent à cet important système de formation dans la province. Ce chiffre comprend ceux qui sont inscrits dans 63 métiers réglementés par la loi ainsi que ceux qui le sont dans 567 programmes d'apprentissage créés par les employeurs.

La formation modulaire est une nouvelle variante de l'apprentissage dans laquelle les progrès de l'apprenti sont basés sur la performance plutôt que sur le temps passé à apprendre. Nous avons créé une banque de modules qui décrivent les compétences et les connaissances exigées dans certains métiers. Des programmes sur mesure sont également créés en choisissant

les modules qui conviennent aux besoins d'employeurs et de travailleurs donnés.

10:40 a.m.

Actuellement, quelque 37,000 personnes sont inscrites à la formation modulaire. Nous introduirons au printemps de nouveaux modules couvrant l'extraction souterraine en roches molles, et la supervision du premier échelon pour l'extraction en roche dure. Ces nouveaux programmes modulaires ont été créés en collaboration avec les syndicats et la direction de l'industrie minière.

Les femmes ne représentent que cinq per cent du total des apprentis. Cette faible participation, due surtout à des attitudes socio-culturelles tant de la part des femmes que des employeurs, ne manque pas de m'inquiéter. C'est pourquoi nos nouvelles mesures dans le domaine de la formation industrielle auront surtout pour but de surmonter les obstacles qui s'opposent à l'embauche des femmes dans les métiers.

Women in particular have benefited from our technical upgrading program, TUP as it is known, offered primarily by colleges of applied arts and technology. TUP provides adults with counselling, academic upgrading and the basics of technical skills. TUP helps them identify their career goals and take their first steps toward achieving them. The program is expected to serve over 10,000 trainees this year and 70 per cent of these will be women. This program has helped many women make a successful transition from home to work by showing them that investing in skills upgrading improves employability. TUP also provides women with the opportunity to enter nontraditional fields. This year the TUP budget has been increased to \$15.6 million from the \$8.3 million spent last year.

Our women in skilled trades and technology fund is a special initiative designed to develop innovative ways of helping women enter technological training and careers. The fund supports demonstration projects which identify and overcome barriers women encounter in the training system.

The Ontario help centres program is targeted specifically at needs of unemployed adults. Currently nine community-based centres are in operation providing employment counselling, job search assistance and follow-up support to unemployed older workers. Following the withdrawal of federal support from the help centres program last year, operating costs are now shared only between this ministry and the community. In approving centres, we are giving priority to

those communities that have had layoffs with a severe impact on adult workers.

As I have suggested, with the reorganization of youth employment programs now complete our next priority must be to achieve a similar co-ordination and coherent focus on the training side of our mandate. But if we are to succeed in reforming training in Ontario, we must work with our major partners in skills development which are business, labour, community groups, and not least, the federal government.

Dating back two decades to the Pearson-Robarts years, occupational training in Canada has exemplified co-operative federalism at its best. The challenge now is to revitalize this federal-provincial working relationship to reflect the changing world of adult learning and the changing needs of the economy. Competitiveness in the world economy must become a national goal. Skills development promises not just a temporary trade advantage but a permanent contribution to our competitive edge.

I am concerned, however, that federal training programs do not reflect this economic imperative. For more than a decade, job creation to combat unemployment has justifiably preoccupied federal resources. As a result of this emphasis, however, Canada has fallen behind in promoting adjustment of the work force to technological and economic change.

If we are to build a world-class Canadian economy, we must emphasize the calibre of the labour force as well as the creation of jobs. The traditional priority on the employment of individual Canadians must be balanced with a new focus on the competitiveness of the economy.

In view of these pressing needs, both new and old, we are troubled by the overall federal allocation to the human resources field, as indicated by the budget for the federal government's new employment and training program known as the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Ottawa's training and job creation allocation of \$2.1 billion this year is less than the \$2.2 billion set aside last year. The federal government intends a further reduction to \$1.9 billion in 1986-87. The effect of these cuts is even more severe when inflation is taken into account.

I have been assured by the federal minister that when the Canadian Jobs Strategy is fully implemented, the result will be more, not less, training. However, initial figures on the takeup of the new Canadian Jobs Strategy industrial programs are not reassuring. Last year, the federal government spent \$56.5 million on industrial training programs in Ontario. This

year, Ottawa cut \$5 million from that budget. The actual 1985-86 expenditures may reach only \$34.6 million, just 60 per cent of last year's spending.

It is in this environment of declining federal expenditure and federal priorities inappropriate to the skills development goals of Ontario that my ministry is attempting to design a modern industrial training program for Ontario.

The federal government, on its own and based on its own analysis, has decided to substantially reduce direct support for institutional training, allegedly to foster a more market-driven system. In the past, virtually all federal training funds in Ontario have been used to purchase training directly from community colleges. These funds have accounted for, on average, about 20 per cent of college revenues.

Ottawa has now developed a new system in which the level of direct federal funding to colleges will gradually decline. This will be offset by increasing levels of federal funding to firms in the private sector, which in turn will have the choice of buying training from the colleges or from other agencies.

Faced with this fundamental change in federal policy, my ministry has devoted considerable time and resources to the negotiation process with the federal government to achieve an understanding that protects Ontario's priorities. Consequently, in November, Ontario and the federal government were able to sign a letter of intent outlining the key principles for developing a new three-year, Canada-Ontario training agreement.

This document attempts to lay the basis for stability in federal and provincial training initiatives. The key to the agreement is the assurance that the federal government will provide an increase in the real level of training funds accessible to our public institutions relative to 1985-86 levels.

For the upcoming fiscal year, 1986-87, the agreement contains a dual guarantee. First, Ontario will be allocated no less than 100 per cent of the 1985-86 federal institutional funding of \$166.3 million. Second, the colleges will receive at least 90 per cent of this figure as direct seat purchases for training.

The colleges will also be guaranteed specific levels of federal funding in direct purchases for the duration of the agreement. In the second year, they will be assured of receiving at least 85 per cent of the previous year's direct purchase allocation. In the third year, they will receive at least 80 per cent of the second year's allocation.

10:50 a.m.

The new funding arrangement also provides for the indirect purchase of training as a means of expanding the private sector's involvement in training. I have every confidence that Ontario's community colleges will be able to take advantage of this arrangement and maintain their record for providing high-quality training to the Ontario work force and Ontario employers.

The federal-provincial understanding also introduces a new role for Ontario's community industrial training committees. As I have indicated, these volunteer groups of community training leaders now participate in a variety of ways in promoting training across the province.

Under the letter of intent, CITCs are to take on new responsibilities for the purchase of the indirect portion of federal training support. By the third year of the agreement, the CITCs could be handling as much as \$40 million worth of indirect training funds in Ontario. The province has secured from the federal government an understanding that it will strengthen the resources of CITCs to fulfil this additional task.

I stress that these new federal approaches are experimental. Ontario has decided to co-operate, but we will monitor the effects of the changes very carefully. After the conclusion of the first year, the two governments have agreed to review the agreement's operations and the results achieved. The relative allocations for direct and indirect training purchases for the third year could be altered on the basis of such a review.

Monsieur le Président, ainsi s'achève ma revue des activités, des priorités et des plans actuels de mon ministère.

Grâce aux programmes que je viens de décrire, mon ministère aide quelque 330,000 personnes cette année à perfectionner leurs compétences et à devenir employables. Et, ce qui importe tout autant, il contribue à rendre l'économie ontarienne plus concurrentielle en améliorant les ressources humaines de la province.

Au cours de l'année à venir, nous poursuivrons l'élaboration d'une stratégie globale de formation pour l'Ontario. Nous travaillerons à améliorer la prestation de services de formation aux employeurs et aux travailleurs de la province et nous continuerons à étendre les services de l'Avenir et à améliorer le programme pour qu'il puisse satisfaire les besoins de ceux à qui il s'adresse.

Underlying the mandate of my ministry is a fundamental choice. Ontario as a province, and Canada as a nation, must design industrial policies that respond to the new economics of

high technology and global competition. An essential component of these strategies must be the recognition of the contribution to growth that can be made by a highly skilled work force.

The Ontario government has chosen to make human resources a central part of industrial policy. We are convinced that economic adjustment and development will be best assured by policies that meet standards of fairness and justice. Broadly based training, by equipping individuals to meet the challenge of economic change, serves both our social and economic goals.

I am sure all of us agree that our human resources represent the fundamental building block of our future prosperity. I am therefore looking forward to a positive and constructive dialogue with the committee during the course of these estimates proceedings.

Mr. Partington: I am very pleased to be participating today in estimates which represent firsts on many fronts. Not only are they the first estimates of this new ministry, but they are also my first estimates. I was newly elected to this House in last spring's election, as was the minister. However, the minister has already gone through the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. With these, his second estimates within a week, he has become something of an old pro.

Skills development and job training have been important planks in the Liberal Party's policy. Over the years, it has brought forward many proposals in this area. The Premier has been quoted on many occasions, too numerous to keep count, as saying the whole field represents his number one priority.

These estimates should provide us with an indication of how well the Liberal government is managing its affairs. In this new ministry, it has not been encumbered by a long history of ministerial policy but has had carte blanche to create what it sees fit. It will be interesting to note what it has been able to accomplish with its number one priority and what it intends to do with it in the near future.

These estimates are of great interest to my party as well. Skills development and job training have been critical areas for us. Over the years, we have initiated many programs and greatly expanded the whole range and philosophy of skills development.

During the 1940s and 1950s, skills development and job training programs were handled almost exclusively by the established educational system; secondary schools and universities of-

ferred what programs there were. The 1960s saw the creation of the community college system and the expansion of the technical and vocational programs offered at the secondary school level.

By the 1970s and 1980s, a greater demand had developed for programs that provided hands-on, practical work experience. Along with co-operative educational programs at the secondary school and university levels, our previous governments began to offer practical, noninstitutional skills development and retraining programs. Programs were also developed to meet specific needs.

The first five years of the 1980s saw a massive expansion of the programs offered in this area. Demand for such services became acute. A multitude of programs were developed that helped hundreds of thousands of Ontario citizens to find appropriate employment.

A look at some of the programs being offered in the 1984-85 fiscal year will demonstrate the vast variety of programs offered and the number of groups served.

Beginning with the focus on youth, efforts included the Ontario youth employment program, summer experience, junior rangers, Ontario summer replacement, Ontario student venture capital, Ontario Youth Tourism, part-time employment program, summer employment/experience development program, Ontario youth employment counselling centre program, Ontario Youth Trust, Ontario Youth Corps, residential centres, Ontario Youth Start program, Ontario Youth Works opportunities, year-round venture capital incentive program and many other programs, including our apprenticeship programs, the Ontario international marketing intern program, the welfare incentive program, employer-sponsored training programs, the Ontario training incentive fund, the Ontario skills fund; and the list goes on.

It became obvious that the need for such programs would continue to exist; they were a response to long-term changes within our society and not to short-term economic situations. The next evolutionary step was the logical creation of a ministry to co-ordinate and provide for the delivery of these programs. Such a ministry would be able to rationalize the programs offered to avoid duplication and ensure resources were being allocated as efficiently as possible, to better determine the present and future needs of the marketplace for trained workers and ensure programs were in place to meet those needs and to provide the people of Ontario with easier

access to these programs—one-stop shopping, if you will.

Our commitment to skills development and training is unquestionable. The work done, the money spent, the programs offered and the plans made are solid proof. It is the oft-expressed commitment of the Liberal Party which has yet to be proven. I have many questions about its intentions.

11 a.m.

To start with, the most basic question is, has the minister's government made a firm commitment to see this ministry established? I hope the minister will be able to tell us today. I find it somewhat odd to be sitting here today voting estimates when the act to establish the Ministry of Skills Development has yet to be passed. The act was introduced in the House by my colleague the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), the then minister, on June 11, 1985.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Who was that?

Mr. Partington: The Honourable Phil Gillies.

Mr. Gillies: I could spell it for you, Mr. Sorbara.

Mr. Partington: He was obviously the right man to start off this ministry.

Mr. Gillies: And the right guy to finish it too, in due course.

Mr. Partington: In any event, there has been a eight-month delay in bringing this bill forward for final reading. That appears incomprehensible. I urge the minister to have this bill read a final time as soon as possible. Perhaps today he can tell us when that might be. I would like the minister to explain what the problem has been and to let us know whether he has resolved it.

I would also like the minister to tell us when we can expect to see the guarantee of opportunity program the Liberals promised in the spring election. Under that program, they would provide post-secondary education to all qualified high school graduates who wish to pursue this avenue, or job training and a job to every other young person in this province; all for the cost of \$100 million.

I am sure the minister would like to take this opportunity not only to explain when he hopes to introduce this program but to revise his cost projections as well. Since the Futures program is supposed to be costing more than \$100 million, I am sure he realizes he cannot offer the far more comprehensive guarantee of opportunity program for less money.

I am sure the minister has other plans for employment programs and will be able to give us an indication of his future directions and plans.

I am also curious about the plans we had for the ministry and what has happened to them in the intervening eight months. Mr. Gillies, very clearly and eloquently, laid out those plans in the speech introducing the act to establish the Ministry of Skills Development on June 11, 1985.

For example, Mr. Gillies spoke of his intention to provide \$100 million in addition to funds already allocated to skills development programs for 1985-86. Part of this additional \$100 million was to be spent on a training access fund to help remove obstacles to training, such as child care and transportation costs. As well, the additional \$100 million would have provided a further 75,000 training and upgrading opportunities and 30,000 more work experience opportunities for high school graduates. What has become of this initiative under the Liberal government?

Mr. Gillies also talked about the establishment of an enterprise technology fund, which would help industries to help upgrade their technologies and equipment as long as they provided their employees with appropriate training and retraining programs. What has become of this initiative under the Liberal government?

Mr. Gillies intended to consolidate the employment and training services for special needs groups in the new ministry by transferring the handicapped employment service unit from the Ministry of Labour. What has become of this initiative under the Liberal government?

Even more critical to this examination of the estimates than future directions is the state of present programs. Estimates through the years have become a forum for general discussion of policy initiatives, with little discussion of the actual expenditures involved. This year such a discussion is necessitated by the confusion and chaos surrounding the activities of this new ministry.

The estimates we have before us only serve to compound the problem. We are given a picture, albeit a somewhat inaccurate one, of the state of programs and funding that existed in the ministry last spring. Since that time, the Liberal government has cut several programs and established one new program called Futures. Yet these estimates contain allocations to fund programs for the entire duration of 1985-86, programs which the minister says he is no longer offering, and the estimates do not include Futures.

We tabled a question in Orders and Notices asking for a breakdown of the programs the minister intends to offer in 1985-86, and how much money he intends to spend on each program in relation to the length of time it will be offered over the course of the year. Yesterday I received notification that the ministry cannot supply these figures until February 14, 1986. I am afraid that is simply not good enough.

We are not voting on estimates for the ministry on February 14; we are voting on them today. I am completely flabbergasted that the minister is here asking us to vote on his expenditures when, by his own admission, he cannot tell us until February 14 what those expenditures are.

I have grave reservations about voting to hand the minister a blank cheque. If he wants us to entrust him with more than \$418 million of the taxpayers' money, then I suggest he should be more than ready, willing and able to tell what he is going to do with this money.

Earlier, I read out a list of skills development programs that were in existence in fiscal 1984-85. What I propose to do today is go through these programs one by one in an effort to determine if they are still being offered in fiscal 1985-86, for what portion of the year they will be offered and how much money the minister thinks he will spend on these programs.

I will be asking the same questions about Futures. I want to know under what funding allocation these programs fall. I want to know about the state, although you referred to it in your opening speech, of the federal-provincial agreement in the skills development area.

The now Premier made a great many statements and promises about this subject one year ago. It will be interesting to note if the Liberal government has been able to deliver on the positions of the Liberal opposition.

I would also like to talk about the steps the minister has taken to rationalize programs Mr. Gillies worked out in agreement with the federal government last March which helped to avoid duplication. Ontario was to fund those jobs that provided work experience, while the federal government was to fund direct career-related jobs. What has happened to this initiative under the Liberal government?

I have other reservations about the extent to which the goal of rationalization has generally been met in the ministry. For example, we have found one centre that is funded by the ministry but in which the staff is hired by and reports to the John Howard Society and the paycheques are issued by a second ministry. If this represents the

rationalization of a program, then we may need a new definition of the word.

Another mandate of the ministry was to establish better job market forecasts and to ensure that government programs were related to those forecasts. I have yet to see any such forecasts put out by the ministry. Has it done any? Will it? Is it going to make them public or does this open government, one without walls, intend to keep them secret?

Last fall, the employment and technology task force released its report. The report underscored the need to develop government initiatives in skills development programs to ensure that Ontario has the work force it needs over the next 15 years and to minimize the negative impact of technological change on the province's current labour force.

The task force clearly spelled out those areas where job dislocation and demand for skilled employees will be greatest. Considering that the task force has already done much of the ministry's work in this area, I do not imagine it would be too herculean a chore for the minister to develop a comprehensive job market forecast and an outline of strategic plans for implementation of skills development programs.

For example, the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen is predicting a shortage of bricklayers in the very near future unless something is done to ensure more people undergo this training. The minister is aware that the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America of Metropolitan Toronto has expressed to him concern about the same problem, a shortage of trained carpenters in the next five years. What action does the ministry intend to take to prevent these shortages from occurring?

We all agree that this ministry cannot be spending taxpayers' money to train people for jobs that do not exist while other occupations beg for people to fill them. How does the minister intend to fulfil this goal?

11:10 a.m.

We know three age groups within our society currently demand special attention. Young people under the age of 25 have been identified as one such group. Their special problems have been documented and programs have been developed to meet their needs. However, as this group ages, it takes some of its problems with it. Thus the 25- to 29-year-old age category is one that will demand special attention over the coming years.

Job dislocation is felt most keenly by workers over the age of 45. People in this age bracket have the most difficulty retraining and finding another job. Recent studies have indicated they tend to be unemployed for longer periods of time than younger workers. Even if they manage to find jobs, they are often paid far less than they were before.

Women currently occupy a disproportionate number of jobs which new technology will render obsolete. I know the minister referred to this in his opening speech. All the compensation and employment equity programs in the world will not close the wage gap between men and women if women are losing their traditional jobs at a rapid rate and not being equipped with new skills.

We know in the future there will be increased employment opportunities in technical jobs directly associated with building, installing and operating computer systems. There will be more computer monitored work, such as auto processing and materials handling. There will be more computer innovative work, such as designing and creating goods and services made possible by technology itself.

What role has this knowledge played in the minister's plans for his new ministry? For example, will Futures reflect the kinds of skills training which will assure its participants more than a year of make-work jobs and short-lived employment following completion of the program? Will we be paying to have these young people put through the Futures program only to have the jobs it has qualified them for evaporate before their eyes? Does the Futures program truly respond to the future?

While there are many other concerns and issues I would like to address, I will end my remarks now. Many serious questions must be asked and detailed answers given before the votes are taken this afternoon. We are almost at the end of fiscal 1985-86, so it is not a difficult question to ask the minister not only if he knows what he intends to spend but what he has already spent: almost half a billion dollars of taxpayers' money.

Mr. Warner: I would like to offer my congratulations to Mr. Sorbara upon his appointment as Minister of Colleges and Universities as well as Minister of Skills Development. He brings to the job a sincerity and an intent to do a good job. This is evident in the House, and from all accounts quite evident in different places around the province, as I have discovered. That is good, because with energy and intention the

minister, with the co-operation of the House, has the opportunity to develop programs which are very badly needed in this province.

I would like to deal with the good news before I hit the bad news, if that is an appropriate way to go. Mr. Partington raises the question of the establishment of the Ministry of Skills Development. I agree; it would be nice to deal with this bill. I presume that when the Conservative caucus has completed its filibuster on the extra billing legislation we could deal with this bill. That might be appropriate before we leave here.

I have raised what were natural concerns with respect to the Futures program, because it was a brand-new program replacing the old ones. It appears to me that basically the program is a very good one. There are a couple of new wrinkles that make it a better approach than the previous one. There are some further refinements which would help the program and if we have an opportunity to discuss it—I share the same confusion because it is not listed in the estimates per se—I would like a bit of time, before we complete the estimates this afternoon, to deal with the nitty-gritty details of the Futures program.

Basically, it is good. I have spoken with a number of young people who are on the Futures program and the results are very encouraging. In one instance, the judge looked very kindly on the fact that a young man who was perhaps on his way to jail was now involved in some skills upgrading, academic upgrading and had a job placement prospect through the Futures program. The judge reduced the sentence from 30 days to five days. The young person now has an opportunity for long-term placement. Talking with this person, I got the sense that he saw this as a turning point in his life.

The major thing that concerns me about it is whether or not it is dead end, because there really is not any obligation on the employer, at the end of the employment, to make some kind of an assessment or to make a job offer. I gather, however, that the agencies carrying the program are doing their best to screen the employers so that there is a greater potential for long-term employment, and that is good. Whether or not there is a way to tighten that up a bit regarding job prospects needs to be explored.

The Futures program should not be seen as a be-all and end-all, by any means. I think Mr. Partington is right; the demographics are such that the severe problems faced by young people today will dissipate with time and will be replaced by severe difficulties for the age group

of, say, approximately 30 to 45. Those are the demographics of our province.

For example, the real problem in Sudbury today is not so much youth unemployment as it is older workers who have been displaced because of the severe reduction by the Inco work force. If you take a work force of about 18,000 that is reduced to 6,000, obviously those older workers are faced with some tremendous problems. That is a challenge for the future.

I would like to deal with apprenticeship to some extent. The province's apprenticeship record is absolutely appalling. If I am not mistaken, as of 1984 we had approximately one per cent of our work force involved in apprenticeship, and this is not good enough. There are some reasons for it. What bothers me about the statement you made is that you show an interest in apprenticeships, which is good, but the government does not seem prepared to bite the bullet on this one. Until we can get a three-way agreement with business, government and labour which involves a contribution, we are not going to make long-term gains in apprenticeships. You can make sporadic improvements and perhaps you will be able to meet some of the immediate crises.

Carpenters are a good example. In the Metropolitan Toronto area, I think we are looking at close to 700 carpenters retiring over the next five years and there are no replacements. This is an immediate problem. One would presume the government will move to help solve that problem.

In the long run, unless you can come up with a three-way agreement which involves obligatory money from employers, we will be going ad hoc as we always have. After all, if you want to look at it logically, companies do better because of a skilled work force. I do not think there is any mystery about that. The better skilled the work force, the better able a company is to be productive and turn out good-quality products. A company enhanced by a skilled work force benefits, so why on earth should they not pay something towards the cost of training these employees? For the most part, the government pays for them. That is why we have community college and university systems. We are supplying the training. Companies are benefiting from that skilled work force but they are not paying for it.

Some companies will likely argue that they pay for it through general taxation; but we use some of that general taxation to clean up the pollution mess they have created, so I do not buy

that argument about general taxation. We have to have money from them specifically earmarked. I am not suggesting an on-line budgeting thing. I am suggesting that a target be set of the total amount of money required from industry and that amount be put into the Ministry of Skills Development specifically for apprenticeship and that apprenticeship programs be developed; apprenticeship programs with some concept as to the time required to master the skill.

Unfortunately, some apprenticeship programs drag on for long periods of time during which apprentices are not earning full wages but only approximately 60 per cent of the wages. The longer that drags on the worse it is for the individuals involved. So one must look at the time required to master the skill, to get a ticket and going on to being a journeyman. That is very important.

I want to talk about women for a minute. There are some good intentions in the minister's statement with respect to women in skilled trades, especially in nontraditional areas. I think the minister has to take seriously community-based programs which are attempting to deliver this and are doing an extremely good job. One example the minister may be aware of is Weston Machine and Tool Ltd. As far as I can determine from the plant site and from letters of support from other employers who hired women who had attended these programs, these programs are extremely successful.

They are community based, nonprofit and require support. One reason they require support is that the federal government is systematically withdrawing its support of community-based programs, and in many areas these are programs related to skills development. Heaven knows, like everybody else we have lots of problems on our hands because of the government in Ottawa. Where Ottawa is abdicating its responsibility Ontario has to move in to shore up the activity. I suggest that support of community-based programs which help women to acquire skills in nontraditional jobs is a very legitimate role for the ministry to play.

The minister made a statement about women in the work place. I hope I did not misunderstand it. I put a question mark on page 20 where it says, "The low participation rate, largely the product of social and cultural attitudes on the part of both employers and women, is a matter of serious concern to me."

I am not sure why women are included there but men are left out. From my experience, the problem for women when they have been trained

in what we would call nontraditional jobs, the first barrier, is with the employer. They have never hired a woman to work on heavy equipment before. The usual lines of defence are: "I do not think she can do the job. She is not strong enough. We are going to have to have a washroom." However, once the employer has hired a woman for this job and finds out she is highly skilled, highly trained and a good employee, it is great.

The second barrier, however, is the men who work there. They are not prepared to accept a woman doing the type of work that men traditionally have done. By way of a friendly suggestion, perhaps the minister would consider arranging for some instructional time, sensitivity lessons or whatever, in the work place. Some of your ministry people are well versed and the community colleges operating the women-in-trades-and-technology courses are also well equipped to go into the work place and offer seminars to help change attitudes.

In the long run, the attitudinal changes need to come through the school system, so that boys and girls grow up with very different attitudes and no longer categorize each other. In the interim, it would be helpful if the ministry could look at that opportunity to go into the work place and run seminars to try to help men with their attitudes.

Also, with respect to the needs of disabled people, there has to be a special approach to ensure employment opportunities for a much greater percentage of our disabled citizens who are able to work. You probably have received something from the Industry-Education Council of Hamilton-Wentworth with respect to its proposal on Operation Employability, which is to help disabled young people find gainful employment and independence. I would ask that you take it very seriously. It is an imaginative proposal which could be very helpful.

Similarly, our first Canadians historically have been frozen out of a lot of jobs in this province. There are some good native programs, as the minister discovered when he was in Thunder Bay and other centres.

A different approach is needed when you are attempting to secure employment for native people. Quite often, it is more helpful to find an employer who will hire more than one native Canadian in a work setting. The ministry will find that securing employment for three, four or five native Canadians in one plant is better than those six people being located in six different plants. If you work closely with the people running native programs in Thunder Bay, Tim-

mins, Sudbury, you will find some very good approaches, but special attention is merited in this area.

11:30 a.m.

I was very pleased to see that you touched on the area of literacy. I have a deep concern about adult literacy. It is an invisible problem in our society, but it is very real. It is difficult to identify, but we have an illiteracy problem in Ontario and in Canada. The problem has become worse in the last while because the person on the job site or in a plant who cannot read or write is now faced with handling material which may be inflammable, contain hazardous chemicals, and so on. If they cannot read the label they do not know what they are dealing with; and if they cannot read or write it is not likely they will say anything about it. It is a very real problem. There are groups, some in existence and some now forming in various communities, that are attempting to deal with adult illiteracy.

The problem from a government standpoint is that while literacy is the responsibility of approximately nine or 10 different ministries, unfortunately there is not a lead ministry. I am not suggesting necessarily that this ministry should be responsible, but if this one is not, one should be; and perhaps appropriately it should be the Ministry of Education. Someone has to take the lead role in dealing with what I think is a very serious problem.

We shortchange our citizens when they do not know how to read or write. It is of particular concern for our work force and it will become increasingly so. The minister has highlighted this in his statement. I appreciate that. We look forward to some progress.

One-industry towns remain a problem, not just for your ministry but for others as well. I am totally perplexed about Sudbury. The future for Sudbury does not look good. Maybe not your ministry alone, but your ministry in conjunction with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and others has to come up with something. The work force in Sudbury has been depleted. There are all the workers who are displaced; and younger people are being trained, some in the Futures program and some in college, and given the kinds of skills—and the people there are very open and blunt about this—so they can go somewhere else to get a job.

This is reality, but you know what that will ultimately mean for Sudbury. That city, which deserves to remain, grow and flourish, will find it difficult to do that if the young people are leaving. This is a trend that will continue unless

we can come up with some answers to build a better economic infrastructure for the Sudbury basin and the region. That is a serious challenge for this government. There are other one-industry towns. Sudbury is probably more dramatic than some, but there are others. It requires a very special approach.

I am disappointed with the summer job aspect: you have decided to continue with the old way of doing things. I think times have changed. The major chunk of this is to give a subsidy to the employer of \$1.25 and the employer will pay the minimum hourly wage of \$4. If you do a little mathematics, it means that a university student with three months' work is going to accumulate in the neighbourhood of \$2,000. That is a potential and probably the high mark.

Attending university in town runs about \$6,000 a year; attending out of town, about \$10,000. The student has now obtained \$2,000. What you are doing is helping that person mortgage his or her future. That is the effect of the program.

The argument was always used that it is an investment in the future to take out a student loan. At one time there were lots of grants available but they have almost totally disappeared. So the student takes out the loan; it is an investment in the future. Why? Because a university degree is a ticket to success? The student is going to be rich beyond his wildest dreams, so there is no problem with accumulating debts? That was fine in the 1960s but it is not true today. To a large measure, there are university grads out there scratching around for just about any job they can get their hands on. A university degree is not necessarily a ticket to riches.

I am suggesting we need a little different approach. I am wondering why the minister would not consider subsidizing a full-time, bona fide university student as well as the employer because the employer is not going to pay more than the minimum wage. A subsidy, in addition to wages paid by the employer, would help reduce the debt load. The debt load today is probably a greater percentage of the cost than it was back in the 1960s.

I want to turn to unemployment help centres. Under the guise of involving the community, community involvement in order to sustain help centres for the unemployed, I think in all honesty that was a blueprint for the end of the help centres. For the most part, help centres are not in a position to accumulate 50 per cent. If anything, it would mean a fund-raising drive. That is not

what their effort is supposed to be. If they cannot raise that 50 per cent, they understand they will be out of business.

There have been statements that there would be some additional help if they were having trouble making it, but my information from the unemployment help centres in Sault Ste. Marie and Brampton is that help is not available. If you do not have the 50 per cent from the community, you are finished.

Let us take a community such as Sault Ste. Marie. The district labour council does not have that kind of money to come up with the funds. Their members have been hit hard over the years. I think it is a blueprint for the fading away of those unemployment help centres. They have done a good job. They have picked up the slack where the federal government has not done the job through manpower centres. In many cases manpower centres are not doing the counselling that is required.

We get these horrible stories—you have probably heard them too—where a person comes into a manpower centre, especially a person who cannot read very well, and the counsellor sits there and says: "The jobs are on the board. Go read them. Pick off one you want." The person says, "I cannot read." The counsellor says: "That is too bad. That is not my job. It is somebody else's job; it is not mine." The feds are not going to do the work properly. Help centres, through the aid of the Ontario Federation of Labour, were something that was doing a good job. But they are not getting the support and it would appear they are on their way out.

Finally, I turn to what I think in the long run is probably the most serious difficulty that you and the government face over the next little while. I agree with the statement on page 11 that "only national full employment policies can ensure adequate creation of permanent jobs." It would be a first in this country were any national government, including the former Liberal government, to make a statement that full employment was a goal of our country. No national government has ever done that.

You have to make that statement before you start with any programs directed towards creating full employment. I agree with you: the present federal government is not prepared to make that a goal. Unfortunately, what they are in the process of doing is something that presents an absolutely terrible situation for our province. I am surprised and shocked that you signed that Canada-Ontario training agreement. It is unbelievable.

11:40 a.m.

I could be mistaken about this, but I understand that at the time you signed, only one other province signed. For better or worse, Ontario is viewed as a key player in Canada. When Ontario signs an agreement other provinces that are wavering say, "If Ontario signed, so should we." It puts pressure; first on the maritime region. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland will all follow. Once that is accomplished it is tougher for Quebec to stand alone.

My information is that people in Quebec are very unhappy with the fact that Ontario signed. They should be. I am unhappy that we signed. I do not think we had to. We could have held out. Something better could have been negotiated.

I will tell you why. I have had some experience with the community college system. At one point I visited each community college and each university in Ontario. Recently I have been reacquainting myself with colleges around the province.

The former Tory government made a very wise decision a long time ago to establish the community college system. It established it not as a transfer system, but as an entity which would assist in skills development and training, with the possibility that students could still go to university. It is not a closed door. It is a good system. It was established for very sound reasons and is superior to the essentially American model of transfer.

This new arrangement will undercut the community colleges severely and do them a disservice. The federal government, for whatever weird and wonderful reasons, has decided that it should start a parallel system. We are quite prepared to start funding private institutions to do the very work now being done by the colleges.

Drake Personnel received \$1 million to upgrade its training program. The next step will be to allow them to hand out certificates. Once they do that, the community college system will be on the ropes.

There is no need for it. There are many disturbing facets of this. First, there is absolutely no need to start a whole system of private schools to provide training. We have spent millions of dollars on community colleges throughout Ontario to do just that. Why on earth would there be a need for a totally private system operating in the community?

Second, it is bizarre to give money to companies to do the training. It goes against everything ever done in this province. The idea

of getting training at a community college is that when a student comes out of there he has a transferable skill, a ticket that says he can do heavy machine repair or whatever; he can go to company A, B, C or D and get a job.

If it is turned over to the companies, company A will run a training program. It will get money from the feds but the individual will be trained entirely the way company A wants. If that individual is so unlucky as to lose the job, then company B, C, or D will not help. They will say: "You were trained there. They are opposition. We do things differently." That is why we had the college system. This agreement of handing out money to private companies to do their own skills training will undercut the colleges tremendously. It is a mistake. It is probably irretrievable at this point.

I notice that you made mention—and perhaps when you get a chance you can give me more details—that after a year a portion of this is reviewable. Perhaps I can have more details at some point.

The statement on page 26 that, "The new funding arrangement also provides for the indirect purchase of training as a means of expanding the private sector's involvement in training," is a recipe for disaster. The community colleges have a different mandate. They respond to the needs of the community in total, not just to the needs of a particular company. Big trouble lies ahead.

In a way, I hesitate to raise this because if I have learned anything over 10 years it is a healthy respect for the Ontario civil service. There is no more highly skilled group of individuals than the one we have developed over a long time in our civil service. It has been my experience of a variety of ministries, such as the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Ministry of Education and a number of others that the people running them are professionals. They know what they are doing, they work damn hard and they do a good job.

I am disturbed to learn, if it is true, that some kind of mini-war is going on between the Ministry of Skills Development and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities at the senior civil service level. I find it hard to believe because of my understanding of how the civil service works. I hope it is not true. One has to work closely with those two ministries to deliver skills training and apprenticeships, to assist women and disabled and native people in the work place, on the Futures program or anything to do with young

people, and to protect our community colleges against the attack by the Tories in Ottawa. They have to make a concerted effort to develop programs. Maybe my information is wrong, and I sincerely hope it is, but if it is not, there is a little problem to deal with up front.

In conclusion, after going through the estimate items one by one, perhaps I can summarize. One, the big new Futures program, which is the main component of the new ministry, is basically good. It needs a little refining here and there. It is helping a lot of kids who ordinarily would not be helped. That is great. Two, apprenticeship training is a real challenge, but will only be successful if a three-way agreement can be extracted that obligates employers to pay money. Three, this arrangement with the federal government has to be re-examined. It was a mistake to sign it. Something has to be done with it or our community college system is in big trouble.

Having said that, I will return to the first thing I said. I believe you have the drive, the initiative and the sincerity to tackle these challenges. The question is political will. If you tackle the things I have mentioned, your political will will gain some support, at least in this camp.

11:50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman: The minister has suggested he will respond to the specific questions asked by each of the critics at two o'clock. Therefore, we will proceed with questions.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Before we do that, may I consult my deputy minister on matters of information that might be of assistance to the members of the committee?

Mr. Chairman, supplementary estimates have been made available to you. I leave it to you to consider distributing them to the members of the committee at this point.

Mr. Chairman: Do the critics have the supplementary estimates? They should have. **Mr. Partington,** do you have them?

Mr. Partington: Yes, I do.

Mr. Chairman: The rules of the Legislature would not allow them to come in fresh today.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: They have been tabled in the House.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, that is right. We have them.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: So we will be voting on them today.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Sorbara: They are before the committee.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Can I interject on one more item? Questions have been raised about the breakdown of items. Can we table additional information before the committee to assist in the breakdown? I propose to table these breakdowns now so the members of the committee will have an opportunity to review them before lunch. We have copies of them here; just leave me with one copy.

Mr. Gillies: That might be helpful.

I cannot be allowed an opening statement, but may I ask a long, multipart question to cover a number of bases in these estimates?

In the first instance, I am very proud we are here for the first set of estimates for the Ministry of Skills Development. I looked forward to it almost a year ago. While I may not have expected to be on this side of the table to consider these estimates, none the less I am glad we are here and they are taking place.

I still believe, as we did when we introduced the ministry as part of the Enterprise Ontario program, that all the various youth employment programs, training and so on that were previously spread among 12 different ministries and agencies had to be brought together, better co-ordinated and rationalized. That is what the minister is about and I encourage him in that work.

The rationalization of which you spoke, the first step, was the very establishment of the ministry. I remember the comments of the Premier almost word for word at the time we announced the formation of the ministry. He said that the Ministry of Skills Development was unnecessary, that if the other ministries were doing their job we would not need it, and that the only job that would be created by the Ministry of Skills Development would be that of the minister.

Now that we are considering these estimates a year later, and the act establishing the ministry is still in Orders and Notices at the instigation of your government, I assume Mr. Peterson now recognizes how wrong he was at the time. The development of this ministry was very forward-looking and necessary to the development of a skilled work force in our province.

I also remember the month or so following the establishment of the ministry and the election campaign that ensued. I remember well David Peterson's big election promise regarding youth employment. I can quote the lead sentence from an article in the *Toronto Star* of April 12, "Every unemployed youth in Ontario would be guaran-

teed a job or a training post for one year if a Liberal government were elected, party leader David Peterson has promised."

That is not what we have seen. On occasion, the minister quite rightly quotes my comments about the "youth stew;" I still believe that was the case. When the Futures program was introduced, I said Futures was taking the right direction in consolidating a number of programs and making them somewhat understandable to the people we were trying to reach.

I was encouraged then. I have to say, however, that many months later I am not nearly so encouraged by what Futures has developed, the delivery of the program and what I am hearing out in the field. For example, the minister told us in his opening statement today that Futures now employs about 6,900 young people. I am sure he will agree that is well short of serving every unemployed young person in the province, as his leader suggested would be the case during the election.

When he announced the program would cost \$133 million, the public and the members of the Legislature expected that it approximated what would be spent in the fiscal year or perhaps even a year after the announcement. We also expected that Futures would be trying to reach the number of clients being served under the collapsed programs. I do not believe that is the case. I hope the minister can convince me otherwise.

I remember very well that in his statement announcing Futures he collapsed the Ontario career action program, Youth Works, the Ontario Youth Corps, Youth Tourism, the resource centres and Youth Start.

The direction was the right one but I remind the minister—and I refer to figures prepared by ministry staff; there is no hocus-pocus to this—that as of April 1, 1985, OCAP alone had served 15,250 people in fiscal year 1984-85. Some of the other programs that were part of Ontario youth opportunities—and I grant you some were in the formative stage themselves—such as Youth Works were employing more than 8,500 people as of April 1, 1985, and the Ontario Youth Corps another 5,200 people.

The minister would have to agree with me that he has told us in his opening statement today that the youth employment program he now has in place is serving thousands fewer young people than the programs we had in place a year ago. I do not think that is what he intended when he set up Futures. I am not suggesting there was any chicanery in the scope of the announcement he made with Futures. He has had problems getting

the program up and running and delivering. I wish I could share the confidence Mr. Warner expressed that Futures is reaching more and different types of clients than the old programs were. That is not the feedback I have been getting.

Mr. Sorbara gets a little paranoid sometimes when I tell him I have talked to somebody in the college system or the ministry. He has yelled at me before about brown envelopes and skulking around corners. It is nothing like that.

Mr. Epp: They are blue now.

Mr. Gillies: Sure, they are blue envelopes now.

I am sure the minister will agree with me that it is perfectly natural. During even the brief period of time I was in the ministry I met an awful lot of people, as he has, who deal with the ministry. It is quite natural that on occasion I still run into them.

12 noon

In all honesty, the concerns and the complaints I have heard about Futures from virtually every quarter, particularly among the delivery agencies, are very serious. I feel the program, while well intentioned, is inflexible. Many young people, who themselves or whose counsellors do not feel they are up to the educational component, are being driven away. I have heard the same thing from the people who deliver this program in any number of our community colleges: "We could have accommodated this or that person under the Ontario career action program or perhaps another program, but we cannot fit them into Futures."

I urge you, as I urged you in the House, to review the program with an eye to revising it and making it as flexible as possible. I happen to believe, based on the experience of the first four or five months, that unless you do your ministry is never going to get the numbers of young people into Futures that we want. Your ministry has problems here, and I say again I believe—and I would like to be convinced otherwise—that your program is serving many thousands fewer young people than were being served under the six programs that were collapsed.

I note your ministry basically has reannounced our summer 1985 package of summer programs. I have an advantage, having been in the ministry for under two months. I can always say, "Given time, I would have done X, Y or Z." I recognize that. However, I tell you sincerely—and we could put the deputy minister under oath, because he heard me rant about this any number of times—given time, there was an awful lot we

could have done to revise and improve the package of summer programs that was being presented.

We took one very small, tentative step for the summer of 1985: a measure of co-operation and co-ordination with the federal government. You may recall that last year Flora MacDonald and I made the summer announcement together. There were no great, sweeping changes in program design, but we were able to get agreement of the two governments to not run programs that directly competed or overlapped.

For example, the feds wanted to bring in a venture capital program and we said: "Do not do it. We have a very good venture capital program. It is fully subscribed, very successful and has grown enormously over the past three or four years. For you to get into that field would complicate matters." Federal officials backed off in that area and put that money into something else.

I note your ministry announced its summer programs by itself this year. Is that same level of co-operation and co-ordination with the feds ongoing, and will it be a factor this year? I hoped by this point, eight or nine months later, your ministry would have been much farther down the road in revising the summer programs and in achieving some meaningful co-ordination with the feds.

I cannot express horror that your ministry reannounced the programs I announced last year—I see a couple of chuckles here—but I can express some disappointment that with all the time your ministry has had it has not gone farther or done a few things differently.

Regarding federal-provincial relations—and both our critic and my friend from the New Democratic Party have touched on this—it is all very well to express concern about what is going on in Ottawa. When I was in your seat, our officials had concern that the feds might be vacating the field on training. We were very concerned.

Even in the brief time I had, we set up specific negotiations with Flora MacDonald and I met with her in Ottawa. The deputy could tell you about that trip some time. We went to the wrong office, but eventually we connected with Flora. The ministry has an office in Hull and the minister has an office in Ottawa. It was rather funny to see Blair and I running across the bridge trying to flag down a cab to get to the meeting, but that is another story.

Mr. Epp: You did not lose your luggage, though.

Mr. Gillies: We did not lose our luggage. We got there and pointed out to the minister that before setting up the Canadian Jobs Strategy she was vacating the field on some specific programs, such as training in business and industry and technical upgrading and critical trades skills training. The point is that we made our arguments very clearly that day and we were able to persuade her to put some money on the table. We walked away from that meeting with about \$10 million or \$11 million.

For all your expressed concern and recognition of the problem, I want to know what tangible results you have been able to achieve for the province in dealing with the feds. Have you been able to squeeze any more money out of them? Have you brought home the bacon?

I have to share the concern raised by the NDP critic. I hope we did not jump too quickly into signing the federal-provincial agreement under the National Training Act because, in so doing, some tough negotiations that might have squeezed some more money out of them might have been cut short. Our experience in a brief period of time was that it was possible to get more money out of Ottawa if arguments were marshalled and made properly.

Finally, I want to make one or two points about the help centres. I agree with the comments made earlier that there is a great deal of concern among the help centres that they are not going to have the bucks to keep going. You and I have spoken and corresponded about the problems at the Brantford centre, which I have been trying to help. It is not a big deal in dollars. Will you review the situation personally and see whether you cannot come up with some bridge or top-up funding so it does not close?

I am told by the Brantford centre that it is going to have to undertake fund-raising in the community. Apparently, it is not going to qualify for United Way funding this year because there is a year-long waiting period for United Way funds. Frankly, we are worried that, come late spring or early summer, the centre could close. That is not unique to the Brantford centre.

Communities like mine have had very tough times, especially during the recession. There were long periods of unemployment for a lot of older workers. I am sure the minister would agree with me that it would be unconscionable for us to allow those centres to close for the lack of, in some cases \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000. I leave that with him. I do not think it is something any of us wants to see.

Finally, I am encouraged that in the minister's opening statement we see recognition of the problems of older, laid-off workers and a hint of getting into meaningful training programs. As the minister has heard me say before, my single biggest disappointment with Bob Nixon's budget was the complete lack of any mention of training, retraining or job creation programs for older workers. There was the Futures program, but nothing for older laid-off workers.

I remind the minister that it was the first provincial budget in six years not to touch on that important subject. I hope that by the time we hear his government's next budget the plans being discussed today will be far enough along that we will be trying to do something for displaced workers who are older than 24.

My problem is this: from the way the estimates have been presented we cannot glean what your 1985-86 budget for Futures is—not the \$133 million but how much you will have spent by the end of this fiscal year and how many jobs it will have created. You are still using the old categories, the old funds and the old acronyms in some cases. Can you help us with that? We want to know where Futures stands exactly.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not think that question would have stood the test of question period.

Mr. Gillies: Perhaps that is why it is asked here.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I could ask the member for Brantford if he would mind repeating the question; then there would not be any opportunity to answer questions during these estimates and we could all go home.

In his address, the member for Brantford raised eloquently, as he always does, issues his caucus colleagues have raised, and he touched on many concerns raised by Mr. Warner. Rather than try to answer that, because it was not a question, perhaps after lunch I could respond in a more general and comprehensive way to each of the three speeches given by committee members. After that, we could get into details that would stand the test of what a question is.

Perhaps we should adjourn for lunch and reconvene 15 or 20 minutes earlier than we intended, or I could begin the answering process now. I leave that to your discretion.

Mr. Chairman: Earlier in his comments, Mr. Partington referred to what an expert you are, Mr. Minister. However, I think we can accede to that request and come back at 1:40 p.m.. Do we have the members' permission to start at 1:40,

even though one party or another may not be represented at that time?

Mr. Gillies: May I add parenthetically that I think the three House leaders deserve a rap on the knuckles for allowing five hours of estimates for a new ministry with a budget of close to \$500 million.

Mr. Warner: Originally there were not going to be any.

Mr. Gillies: Is that right? That is absolutely ridiculous. With a new ministry and all the programs coming into place, I want to state for the purpose of the Hansard record that we should have had 10 or 15 hours of estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Speak to the House leaders and not to the chairman. Thank you.

The committee recessed at 12:13 p.m.

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No. G-18

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on General Government
Estimates, Ministry of Skills Development

First Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, February 5, 1986
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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Partington, P. (Brock PC) for Mr. Wiseman

Clerk: Decker, T.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, February 5, 1986

The committee resumed at 1:49 p.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Mr. Chairman: Minister, it is all yours.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am sure it will not be all mine. There will be interjections and—

Mr. Chairman: Do not invite them.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, I will not, but I do not want to discourage them either. I am a great believer in the democratic process, in the give and take of these things.

I will begin by commenting on the security of the ministry. There was some question about when the bill establishing the Ministry of Skills Development would come before the House for second reading. I have to concur with the commitments of Mr. Warner on this. I think we all agree with the old adage that governments introduce legislation and oppositions pass it. We seem to be taking up a good deal of time in the House on a bill about which I am not sure the official opposition is certain of where it is coming from.

Mr. Gillies: Minister, you have had a year. Your ministry bill has been on Orders and Notices for almost a year. You could have called it at any time. You could have debated it at any time and we would have given it quick passage.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You are absolutely right, Mr. Chairman, I should not have invited interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Will the member for Brantford please control himself until the minister finishes?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: His first question lasted well over 20 minutes; his interjections will probably total an hour.

I think the government's position on the bill is clear. I am not unhappy that we have proceeded in the House with legislation that deals substantively with program in preference to legislation that confirms our commitment to the ministry. The commitment is clear and unequivocal: the bill will come for second reading at the appropriate time.

I do not think it is a controversial bill. I hope when it comes up for second reading it will pass quickly, go to committee, if that is proper procedure, then have third reading and royal assent. There is no reflection or second-guessing on that question at all within the government. Indeed, we have confirmed the previous government's initiative in that regard.

One issue raised by members of this committee during the morning session related to the Futures program. The suggestion was made that the estimates did not reflect properly the commitment to the Futures program. You have before you supplementary estimates, and now additional information on our spending intention with respect to all of the government's previous programs. I hope this information is responsive to your needs.

It is important in the context of both this committee and the comments made this morning to tell you personally how delighted I am with the success of the Futures program, notwithstanding the comments of the member for Brantford.

I do not say this simply because I think the design elements are a vast improvement over those of the predecessors. I say it because, since the introduction of Futures, I have had an opportunity to visit youth employment counselling centres and community colleges. They tell me about their problems of implementation, but almost unanimously they say they are delighted with the Futures program. They find it the single most exciting and dramatic initiative that a government of Ontario has taken to grapple with the very serious problem of unemployment among young people who suffer disadvantages in the employment market.

I want to stress some of the elements contained therein. We are not in Futures to try to play a numbers game. The program is not designed to get as many people as possible into Futures so the minister can stand up in the House and proclaim great success via numbers. The emphasis in Futures has been on two important elements. The first is training and the second is training leading towards permanent employment.

I had the opportunity to be at a youth employment counselling centre in Thunder Bay on Monday. They said to me that the direction of the program, trying to ensure with each partici-

pant that the work experience and the training will lead to permanent employment, is the initiative they like the best. When working with employers, they ask the question, "Is there a possibility of permanent employment with you or in a related field?" because that is what we are looking for.

They have been experiencing an 80 per cent success rate. That is important. It is not important for a government to flush through people. This is not primarily a job creation program; this is a program to train young people to hold down permanent, meaningful, relevant employment. That is why an employer has to mount a training agenda for each participant. If there is no training agenda, there is no placement.

Certain ministries were a little troubled by the implementation of Futures and the termination of the Ontario Youth Corps. I do not think it is the job of the Ministry of Skills Development to provide other ministries with a labour force working at the minimum wage. When ministries participate in Futures, they have the same obligation as any other employer to provide training and the prospect that it will lead to permanent employment.

The member for Brantford referred to the commitment the Premier (Mr. Peterson) had made in the Toronto Star with respect to the first Liberal government. We ought to direct our attention to the commitment made by the Premier in the mini-throne speech that introduced the government's program for the first few months of operation. We have responded to that commitment in dramatic and effective ways.

One of the things we have done—sometimes there are criticisms from the opposition on this—is spend a good deal of money telling the province about the program. That has never been done before with the youth employment program, actually telling the kids that the program is out there and how to get to us so they can participate. We have had a tremendous response from that. Young people find out about the program and then get access to it. My opening statement referred to 6,900 new participants in Futures. With those who have carried over from the predecessors of Futures, there are some 14,500 people currently involved in Futures.

With respect to assisting young people in finding a place in school or in a training program, not only the employment-disadvantaged but all young people, I flag something that I spoke of here last week. That is enhanced assistance to the Ontario student assistance program. Our agenda in that regard is not over.

My friend the member for Brantford hesitated perhaps in launching a criticism of our government's continuation of last year's summer employment programs. I simply point out that notwithstanding a substantial reduction in youth unemployment and the prospect that in our estimation there will be far more summer jobs available this summer in the private sector, we have maintained the financial commitment the previous government made.

I also cannot help pointing out to the previous minister that there was a clear intention on the part of his government to can the summer employment program. Our party, in opposition, decried that cancellation. There was enough public pressure put on the previous government that it ultimately—and I am not sure what its emotions were but it seemed with some regret—continued those programs.

I do not apologize for continuing programs that have vitality. We have amended the provisions of the Ontario youth employment program so that they will be of greater assistance to the farming community. Similarly, we expect more participants in the student venture capital program and we will be looking very carefully at the effectiveness of these programs this summer to determine whether they ought to be continued for another year or restructured.

For some people it would have been politically opportune to buy new names and do minor tinkering and say that a new government has launched its own summer programs. We did not think that kind of political opportunism was appropriate. We think the summer employment programs will be effective and will respond to the need that exists in the province.

2 p.m.

In that regard, the member for Brantford mentioned that he made a great public relations gesture with the federal government in jointly introducing programs. That co-operation is not as forthcoming with the Liberal government in Ontario. The federal government had announced its programs in December and, unlike the Ontario government, substantially reduced its economic commitment to federal summer employment programs.

It is important to note that notwithstanding those reductions at the federal level, Ontario has continued its commitment at the same financial level, and I repeat, in an environment where unemployment among young people is decreasing and the market for summer employment, in our view, will be far better this summer than in previous ones.

There was a question about our economic commitment to youth employment programs. Our commitment amounts to about \$175 million, including our supplementary estimates. That measures up very well against the commitments that came from the previous government. More important, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has announced that in the next fiscal year the commitment will total about \$200 million.

The member for Brock (Mr. Partington) mentioned in his assessment of Futures a concern about—and I am not sure of the point he was trying to make—financing coming from all sorts of different places. The example he used was the John Howard Society.

It is a real plus in the delivery of Futures that it is community rooted. Youth employment counselling centres have a base and a financial and cultural link to the community. That is important because it allows the community to respond to its own particular need. I do not have the details on the financing of the John Howard Society's sponsorship of a YECC, but there are many ministries involved in issues that the Ministry of Skills Development is involved in as well.

We would, at our peril, try to co-opt the process so that all funding came through the Ministry of Skills Development and every initiative relating to the delivery of a program like Futures emanated from Queen's Park. I do not have any difficulty at all with the financial relationship that we have with the John Howard Society's sponsorship of a YECC, nor generally with the way in which youth employment counselling centres are financed.

A question arose about the harmonious relationship of the previous government with the federal government, particularly in squeezing out an additional \$10-million commitment for training from the federal minister. I do not have any criticisms at all of my predecessor's ability to negotiate. He is known to be an excellent parliamentarian and negotiator, but the fact is that notwithstanding that commitment, as I said in my address, the actual level of expenditures by the federal government reached only \$34.6 million at a time when the commitment had been \$56.5 million.

I do not think my predecessor was scooped on that in any way at all. We have serious problems with the implementation of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, not only in Ontario but throughout Canada. The federal government, in the Canadian Jobs Strategy, has enunciated what looks like a comprehensive program on paper. However, the implementation of that program, I am told

even by officials in that federal department, is in a state of uncertainty, not to say chaos.

Mr. Warner: You are being charitable.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That reality sits on my shoulders as minister, and we might discuss it in conjunction with the letter of intent that you, Mr. Warner, and other members of the committee have spoken about.

This ministry and this government take the issue of training extremely seriously, but we are not prepared to enunciate programs in the absence of a policy perspective and an underlying framework that will ensure we are responsive to the needs of Ontario. We are developing a strategy that will shift the direction of economic growth in a way that makes training, retraining and the development of a skilled work force an important linchpin in the broader economic strategy.

I suggest that despite the federal government's new job strategy, the initiative to reduce the global funding of job creation and training programs by about \$200 million in the next fiscal year speaks to a very difficult task. The federal government suggests it wants to do more with less. I will observe whether it can achieve that remarkable feat.

Let me say a few things about the letter of intent because this has been discussed broadly in circles concerned about training in Ontario and Canada. Mr. Warner had suggested we moved far too quickly to sign the letter of intent. What the letter of intent calls and provides for over a three-year period is, and I am quoting:

"That the Minister of Employment and Immigration will make available in Ontario in 1987-88 and 1988-89, subject to annual budgetary approval by cabinet for the Canadian Jobs Strategy, allocations for direct and indirect purchases sufficient to realize the intent of increasing the real level of training funds accessible to public institutions relative to 1985-86."

2:10 p.m.

That means exactly what it says: The real level of training funding accessible to public institutions will increase. An important caveat in there is that it is subject to cabinet approval of budgets for the Canadian Jobs Strategy. The federal minister, at her peril, reneges on that commitment based on her inability to secure necessary funding from her cabinet.

The reality that concerns a number of people is the reduction in direct purchases. I will not describe the reductions the federal minister had originally proposed in her opening position, but I will tell you that the terms of the letter of intent,

while providing for a reduction in direct purchases, provide for 100 per cent of institutional training for next year and the overall commitment to maintain the levels of institutional purchases.

This gives rise to an uneasiness in community colleges because it changes the mechanisms, the models, in which they had traditionally received funding to do institutional training. The federal government and the federal minister were under the misapprehension that the community colleges were doing a less-than-adequate job of institutional training. In the context of our negotiations, Ontario at least disavowed the federal minister and that government of their views in that regard. Our community colleges do an extremely good job of institutional training, and we expect they will do even better in the future. We must do better.

I could have taken the approach that the negotiations should become more and more protracted and that we should just hold out. My assessment was that even with a third, fourth or fifth interprovincial conference, the federal government would not have moved off its position of a measured reduction in direct seat purchases.

It is my view, and it will stand the test of time, that the accommodations and the new mechanisms we have made to ensure that the same level of training takes place through new models, such as the market-driven model that will involve a strong community base—that is, the community industrial training committees—will prove successful. I am confident this new arrangement can work.

I would have much preferred to see additional funding, not less funding, for the Canadian Jobs Strategy. I am not responsible for the budget cuts the federal government chooses to make. In many respects, Ontario and all the provinces bear the brunt of those.

The situation is similar in the financing of health and post-secondary education, where the federal government is determined to reduce the amount it flows through to provinces by some \$2 billion over five years. This is a similar regime in an area in which Ontario believes cuts will be detrimental to the economic development of the province.

Notwithstanding that, I repeat that the agreement will work and that we do have the opportunity for a full review of the agreement after the first year.

I know the nervousness that community colleges are experiencing right now because of

the reduction in direct seat purchases. I am confident the level of training activity will be maintained and enhanced through our ministry and through the mechanism of indirect purchases through the community industrial training committees. That is in the absence of specific initiatives that will be taken through our ministry as we enhance the role of training in the economic development of the province.

That commitment was made clear at the Premiers' conference when the Premier presented a paper on training in Ontario. The matter was raised once again at the first ministers' conference. Our commitment in that regard has not changed. Changes in models of funding always give rise to uncertainty, concern and nervousness. Our ministry is committed to making the new arrangement work.

There was some mention in Mr. Partington's comments about ensuring that we have accurate statistics with respect to labour-force needs. I think he spoke to the employment and technology task force. I understand the trends set out in that document were general. I am of the view that if we attempt to target or identify too directly the general needs of the private sector in Ontario, we run the risk of making large mistakes and spending large sums on training activity that will be less than effective.

In my view, with the resources of the Ontario Manpower Commission and the strengthening of its mandate and its relationship to community industrial training committees throughout the province, we have a much better model for identifying needs, both locally within communities and provincially through the Ontario Manpower Commission, which will shortly receive a new name and have its mandate confirmed and solidified. The work of the commission thus far and the work we expect it to do in helping us to implement our training strategy is crucial to the operation of this ministry.

All members of the committee who spoke about unemployment help centres expressed some concern that these centres could not survive on the existing 50-50 funding arrangement. I am not convinced of that. Currently, there are nine centres operating very well. For those who do not know, the provincial government became directly involved when the federal government withdrew its support.

It is erroneous to suggest that because unemployment help centres are designed to assist a sector of the community that is in effect without resources because its members have lost their jobs—in communities such as Sudbury, for

example, we know the dimensions of the problem—resources therefore cannot be garnered in a community to support those types of centres. I am a great believer in rooting these sorts of organizations in communities.

I give you the example of youth employment counselling centres, which also derive some of their funding from communities. It would be facile to say that because youth employment counselling centres deal with young people who suffer disadvantages in the work place, they should receive 100 per cent of their funding from government. That has not been the experience.

2:20 p.m.

Similarly, simply because unemployment help centres deal with a constituency that has been impoverished because of lack of work, it is facile to say that the surrounding community cannot muster the resources to contribute to the establishment of the centre. Nevertheless, I am determined to monitor their progress and to ensure that these help centres remain viable and vital.

Penultimately—one of my favourite words, by the way, just because it is such a stupid one to use—there were some comments on apprenticeship. Members of the committee should know a large-scale review of apprenticeship is being undertaken in the province in conjunction with the federal government. I expect some improvements to the apprenticeship system will arise out of that review. They will not arise if the initiative on the federal government's part is simply to find a way to withdraw from that area and to withdraw from expenditures.

However, the letter of intent assures a continuation of funding for the apprenticeship system throughout the time of that review. I am advised specifically with respect to bricklayers that the participation rate is up by about 13 per cent and that with respect to carpenters the participation rate is up by about 8.4 per cent.

That is not to say that either I, as the minister, or our government is completely satisfied with the apprenticeship system. We have made some important steps, including the new initiatives I described in my speech—in the mining sector, for example. Improvements can be made and we have to look at new models. As a training strategy emerges, it may well speak to a new model for apprenticeship.

Mr. Warner, you mentioned that we need a three-way government among government, business and labour; in broad terms, that is right. However, you realize that all those sectors do participate now. Perhaps what you are suggest-

ing is a re-evaluation of the ways in which those three sectors participate, and I could not agree with that more.

Finally, you expressed some concern with respect to senior bureaucracy warfare. While it is an interesting issue to bring up in estimates, I think any warfare, to the extent that it exists, is dramatically exaggerated. Frankly, I think any disagreement between ministries probably arises out of the concern with the letter of intent.

The Ministry of Skills Development in many respects grows out of programs that were carried on under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. There were some—not at the senior levels—who would have preferred it to be back in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. I for one, and this government for another, assert and reassert that the Ministry of Skills Development has a very important and clear mandate, and I, as minister of both ministries, sense an enormous level of co-operation between the two ministries.

Although the Ministry of Colleges and Universities existed on paper, the reality is, as Sean Conway was wont to say, that Bette Stephenson was the minister of all education and in many respects those two ministries acted as one. Each of the ministries—that is, the Ministry of Skills Development and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities—has undertaken the very important work it has had to do in the first nine months of this government with skeletal resources.

The Ministry of Skills Development in its capacity as a new ministry has not had the resources that a ministry of long-standing has had, and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is in many respects a new ministry, given the new priority this government puts on post-secondary education. Officials of both ministries have had to work triple overtime to meet the work loads and mandates assigned to those ministries under the new government.

You are familiar with some of the programs we have already initiated at MCU; there is a similar situation with the Futures program at MSD. We have called on senior and junior bureaucrats, if there is such a distinction, to give their all. They have done that in the professional manner you have articulated.

As minister, I realize the importance of establishing ongoing linkages between the two ministries at all levels of the bureaucracy so that the programmatic mission of this government is one. Suffice it to say that work is currently ongoing and I think any suggestion of warfare is the reflections of one or two individuals some-

where, maybe in a community college or a ministry, who are not getting their way.

I am delighted at the professionalism of the individuals and all staff in both ministries. It has not been an easy period. From our observations, a change of government is not easy for officials in ministries, because a new government comes in with new policy priorities and initiatives. All of us, as human beings, are reluctant to accept change; that is part of the human fabric. Yet I have found in the two ministries for which I am responsible that the changes this new government has implemented have been adopted with enthusiasm and professionalism, and I do not think I could have asked for more.

Those are my comments. I am not sure whether I have answered every question that has arisen. Perhaps we can talk a bit about accessibility, particularly for women, native people and people in the north. You may want to speak to or question us more directly on that. The question of adult literacy was also raised and I have not made any comments about it, but I think I have talked enough for now.

Mr. Partington: How much was expended on the programs that were collapsed into Futures from the beginning of the fiscal year to the date they were collapsed?

Mr. Warner: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I would like to know how we intend to deal with this. We now have gone through the opening remarks of the minister and the two official critics. Normally we go item by item, but it can be however the chair wishes. Do you wish to do them item by item or do all of vote 2801? How do you wish to proceed?

Mr. Chairman: We have been passing anything that has to do with money in the last minute of the estimates and have allowed free-wheeling discussion in the meantime.

Mr. Warner: Do you mean to proceed by vote—vote 2801, vote 2802, etc.?

Mr. Chairman: Through whatever, in about one minute. If you want to suggest something different, that is fine.

Mr. Warner: I am in your hands; I do not care. Do you want to leave it entirely open and then we can jump around from one topic to another?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, when the time comes for questions.

Mr. Warner: Okay. I am easy.

Mr. Chairman: There is only one vote, plus the subsection.

Mr. Warner: Fine.

Mr. Chairman: The problem is that if somebody comes in after a vote has been passed, you have to tell them no, they cannot ask a question. That gets to be a problem and I prefer to give everybody a chance.

Mr. Warner: That is fine.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Partington: I repeat my question about the allocation for employment-disadvantaged programs. It includes Futures and, I presume, collapsed programs. I am wondering about the programs that were collapsed into Futures. How much money in the current fiscal year was expended on those collapsed programs?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You have to understand that programs such as Futures are delivered by agencies. It is a transfer relationship—community colleges, youth employment counselling, etc. The difficulty with providing highly accurate information is that there is a time lag in getting all the bills in and a final fix on what the previous programs cost. Our current estimation is in the neighbourhood of \$50 million.

Mr. Partington: What was the date of the collapse? Was it November 4, 1983?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is right.

Mr. Partington: How much money has been expended on Futures from November 4, 1985, to the present?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is a far more difficult number to estimate and I would not even venture a guess. With Futures, we have put in a monitoring and reporting system that makes some agencies shudder. We feel it is important to have a far better monitoring and reporting device. None the less, we are only into the third month of Futures as of yesterday, and on a monthly reporting scheme it is not possible at this point to give you an accurate fix on what has been spent thus far for Futures.

Let me say something else about that. You have seen what our allocation is. I know how much your party would like to take the position that the government is shirking its responsibilities. I do not think a government's obligation is to spend as quickly as it can. I tried to make quite clear that the emphasis in Futures is not to spend as much as we can, but to offer young people training and on-the-job work experience that is relevant to future employment and provides the best opportunity we can provide for future permanent employment.

That is what the youth employment counselling centres tell us over and over again. "Thank

God, finally we have a program in which you are not forcing us into a numbers game, but allowing us to deliver a meaningful, relevant program to assist the young people we are committed to assist."

Mr. Partington: The purpose of my questions concerns the original estimates, the supplements and then the additional statements. I am trying to find out what the estimates are.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is the job of this committee.

Mr. Partington: You have \$132.6 million for the full 1985-86 allocation. I guess the \$50 million is for the collapsed programs and the balance of roughly \$82 million is for Futures to the end of March 1986. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In our estimation, in this fiscal year, \$133 million will be spent on the ministry's programs, previous and current, for employment-disadvantaged young people.

Mr. Gillies: May I ask a supplementary question on that point?

It is a fairly standard line, and I do not blame you for using it, that you do not want to get into a numbers game; neither do I. However, we are not talking about a small variation here. I hope you appreciate our concern. You told us in your opening statement today that, to date, Futures has employed 6,900 people. If each of these placements by the end of the fiscal year costs \$5,000 apiece, and if that, combined with the \$50 million you spent on the collapsed programs, comes to a total of \$85 million to \$90 million, where is the other \$43 million? How do you get to \$133 million? Even if it were \$10,000 per placement for Futures, you still would not be up to \$133 million.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Currently there are some 14,500 people in the Futures program. The 6,500 figure is new people who have come in. The balance is people who were in pre-existing programs who have established an eligibility for Futures.

Mr. Gillies: They were in the collapsed programs. They were eligible, so they moved over Futures.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is right. We made it quite clear in the announcement on Futures and in the programmatic guidelines that no one would be disqualified as a result of the new program. There were transitional mechanisms your party properly insisted on so that no one would be disadvantaged by Futures. We have done that.

Mr. Gillies: If we were quibbling about a few thousand positions either way, I would not

launch into this, but I have a concern. It is very difficult to nail down how many people are being served for the fiscal year. I just tallied up the numbers and these are the ministry's figures. From April 1, 1985, the six collapsed programs serviced more than 30,000 people in the past fiscal year. Our party wants to be assured that your new program is at least going to approximate that scope of commitment. I do not want to quibble over a few jobs but—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I made it clear in the House on a number of occasions that we continue to estimate that 56,000 young people will be served by Futures and its predecessors in this fiscal year.

Mr. Warner: With respect, I did not understand it until now. I do not think it was explained clearly. The 30,000 young people estimated by Mr. Gillies were previously in the Ontario career action program and Youth Works, etc., and are now maintained through the Futures program. In addition, you add the 6,900 to which you referred in your statement. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is correct.

Mr. Gillies: To be precise, would it not be more proper to say that 7,000 or more of the participants from the old programs are maintained and then another 7,000 or more are new? There would have been a lot more than 7,000 in the old programs, but some of them continued on.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Mr. Warner, I am not sure of the question you asked or the clarification you want.

Mr. Warner: I was puzzled by the numbers Mr. Gillies mentioned prior to lunch. We have approximately 30,000 young people involved in OCAP, Youth Works and Ontario Youth Corps. The Futures program comes along and those three programs are collapsed.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Six programs.

Mr. Warner: According to your statement, we know there are approximately 6,900 people enrolled in Futures at present.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No. The correct figure is about 14,500, of which 6,900 people have come into the Futures program since it was announced.

Mr. Warner: Since it started. You now have a total of how many?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: About 14,500—

Mr. Warner: What has happened to the rest?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: —are currently participating in Futures.

Mr. Warner: All right. Can we assume that 16,000 young people who were previously served under former programs are no longer being served?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No. You are subtracting 14,000 from 30,000.

Mr. Warner: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The figure that was quoted by Mr. Gillies was an aggregate of a year's activity.

Mr. Warner: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There were 30,000 young people serviced in one fiscal year, but some of those programs were 16 weeks long, some were 26 weeks long, and some people participated for four weeks and then found permanent employment. That was an aggregate for a year.

Mr. Warner: In that context, you are suggesting that if, under the former programs, you reached a grand total of approximately 30,000 over the year, your new grand total is 56,000. Is that an accurate way to portray it?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I said in my statement when I introduced the program that the \$133-million commitment would provide a program for 56,000 young people in this fiscal year. The difficulty is that we went through a transitional phase and we are bringing some people in from previously existing programs.

Mr. Warner: I appreciate that. I have a couple of questions about particular aspects of the program. I have a concern about the 20 per cent quota that does not apply to community colleges, but does apply to the youth employment counselling centres. A maximum of 20 per cent of their clientele can be put into Futures. I am not sure why that is.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad you are not sure why that is. The quota does not exist.

Mr. Warner: The people running the youth employment counselling centres have been told it exists. They have been told by your ministry that 20 per cent is a rule.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The 20 per cent rule existed for some programs that preceded Futures, but it no longer exists as a rule. I hesitate to say it is even a guideline. That question was raised with me at the Sudbury youth employment counselling centre and I raised it with my officials. I had a clear assurance that there no longer was a 20 per cent rule. It is important to understand that youth employment counselling centres are not simply agents for Futures, nor do they want to be.

Mr. Warner: I understand that.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: One of their great concerns is that they would be overtaken by Futures, that they would become Futures offices, agents of the provincial government. They have a whole host of important programs of one sort or another. Some emanate from the community. There are counselling programs. They do not want to be overrun by Futures.

The level of funding for Futures placements will be done on a centre-by-centre basis based on the needs of the centres. We are not implementing a 20 per cent rule.

Mr. Warner: It would be very nice if that could be communicated to the youth employment counselling centres, because the ones with which I have spoken are convinced it is a rule. If it is not, that is great, but please inform them. They would function differently.

I have a question under the heading of flexibility. To be flexible is one of the key ingredients of this program. You are targeting difficult-to-employ young people, so the approach has to be very flexible. One situation that I believe exists is when a young, single-parent mother comes into the program and is able to get one of the 16-week, \$4-per-hour jobs. If she is currently receiving mother's allowance, that will be cut off when she gets the job. While that may make sense to some minds, some bridge financing is required. Perhaps that could come out of this fund.

If she has left the house and actually has a job under this program, baby-sitting or day care becomes an expense. In some communities, because of long-term neglect we do not have the subsidized day-care spaces that are required. If she has obtained a typing job in an office, she now requires new clothing so she will not be embarrassed when showing up for work. She probably requires bus fare. These things become very difficult if the payment suddenly stops and she is into the \$4-an-hour job. There should be some way of bridging that.

I understand that it is not a problem if she is in a pre-employment program, the program to enhance productivity. That is not a problem because some allowance is made. However, I believe it is a problem if she is into a job placement.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The first point to be made is that those provisions arise out of the Ministry of Community and Social Services in the regulations it places on mother's allowance. The point is well taken. Perhaps a discussion with my colleague John Sweeney, the Minister of Con-

sumer and Commercial Relations, might speak to that issue. It is not one that particularly relates to Futures. It is one that affects any mother on mother's allowance who finds employment.

Frankly, we are looking at amending provisions throughout government, but particularly in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which stand as a disincentive to employment. I think you have pointed to one of them. It is a broader issue. I cannot say we can remedy it immediately. However, the government is concerned about any situation in which there are disincentives to employment. I take it you are suggesting there should be financial assistance available through Futures to do it.

Mr. Warner: I understand about it being a broader question, but I say that because this program, if it is successful, attracts people who ordinarily would not be attracted in. It is very difficult to place individually. It showed up on your doorstep. People have to acquire some skills for the job search, for approaching the employer during interviews, upgrade the academic level, etc. They gain a bit of confidence and then suddenly, in the face of this very practical problem, somebody says something about requiring new clothing, baby-sitting money and so on, and tells them to go to another ministry for money. Then they may lose something which they have been gaining through the program.

That is why I am suggesting that, while you still look at the overall program, because I agree with you about the disincentive aspect, for your clientele it would be a small amount of money since you have a very small number of individuals who fall into this category. It needs you to supply a bit of that bridging to help that young woman get started in her new job.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You speak to a very important client group for the Futures program; one that I think Futures has been designed to assist. I will make note of your comments.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have any more questions on Futures?

Mr. Partington: To follow up on job creation, I accept that now under Futures there are 14,500 workers, including 6,900 from Futures and 7,600 previously. In view of the fact there are fewer than two months to go before the end of the fiscal year, can you tell us how the additional jobs will be created to get from 14,500 to the 56,000 you indicated in your statement would be provided in this fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: When I was reviewing the text of the statement of an address I am soon

going to give on Futures, where the author had put in "job creation" I scratched it out. Essentially, it is not a job creation program; it is a program for training young people and giving them on-the-job work experience. It is a difficult new concept about which I hope this province will learn in finer and finer detail.

In my statement I said 56,000 young people will have, in this fiscal year—and that includes all those people who have gone through previous programs; at no time have I said that Futures, from November 4 to March 31, will serve 56,000 young people.

Mr. Partington: That is right. I agree with that.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Statistically, up to this point, through Futures and its predecessors, about 51,000 people have received assistance.

Mr. Partington: You are including the collapsed programs.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Yes. In the aggregate, this will amount to approximately \$133 million in fiscal 1985-86.

Mr. Guindon: Minister, I would like to congratulate you for your efforts in speaking French in the House and having your documents mostly all bilingual.

Can you explain your position and strategy vis-à-vis Franco-Ontarian post-secondary education?

L'hon. M. Sorbara: C'est pour nous un problème assez sérieux. C'est une question assez pertinente pour moi en ma qualité de ministre des Collèges et Universités. Je peux dire que nous sommes en train de créer une politique pour répondre dans ce sens, un régime qui va plus loin que celui du gouvernement conservateur dans le domaine de l'éducation post-secondaire pour les Franco-Ontariens.

Nous savons bien que la participation des Franco-Ontariens dans nos institutions post-secondaires est trop peu élevée. C'est-à-dire qu'en comparaison avec la participation des étudiants non franco-ontariens, celle des Franco-Ontariens est très basse. Nous avons l'obligation de créer des programmes en français et pour les Franco-Ontariens dans nos institutions. C'est une politique que nous sommes en train de créer.

Nous avons vu, par exemple, le rapport de M. Stacy Churchill, qui traite de ce problème. Je peux dire maintenant seulement que nous sommes en train d'y répondre.

It will take a good long time to have in place a post-secondary education system that will truly

be responsive. The object is to start. The previous government had started. There are three institutions that offer effective bilingual programs and provide post-secondary education, but the job remains to be done. In the months ahead you will see initiatives coming from our government that will begin that process.

Mr. Guindon: Can you give me a time limit? How many months?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Someone told me never to go to a cliff unless I am prepared to jump off. At this point, I am not prepared to give specific timing for a clear enunciation of initiatives in that regard. But I have stated publicly that I hope to be in a position to make preliminary responses to the Churchill report in the month of February. I think we are going to be consistent with that time frame.

Mr. Guindon: In view of the fact that the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) announced that from now on they were going to translate the laws of Ontario, and your Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) said in Ottawa, about the same time, that something had to be done to improve French services and it had to be done in the colleges and universities, why do we not already have a plan?

You mentioned three universities. Is there a holdup?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, there is no holdup whatever. But I think you will agree that the rate at which this government has initiated reform in the province in so many areas is outstanding by any comparison. Your head just flew up.

Mr. Guindon: It was a natural reaction for you but you have not done anything yet.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You do not believe it. Look at the agenda. It speaks for itself. Our government is working on initiatives that will respond comprehensively to your concerns.

Mr. Guindon: So you are not prepared to tell me right now whether it is in broad—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No. I am not prepared to set out in any detail the nature of the legislation that will be proposed or the initiatives that will be taken specifically in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities on the post-secondary side. It is inappropriate for me to do that while our government is formulating the final points of that policy.

Mr. Guindon: If, for example, a francophone wants to become a doctor, or even a pharmacist, and practise in Ontario, what are you looking at now that causes you problems in educating that person in the French language?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let us take pharmacy, since there is a medical program at the University of Ottawa. One cannot simply snap his or her fingers and mount a comprehensive faculty of pharmacy which delivers its program entirely in the French language. We have to find the professor and the students.

Mr. Churchill's report says that the decisions to enter those kinds of programs are made by students when they are in grades 7 and 8. He says you have to mount the programs with the expectation that they will not be fully subscribed for five or six years. It is an enormous challenge and undertaking. I do not anticipate that in the next year or two we will be able to proclaim that we have responded comprehensively to the needs of Franco-Ontarians in the area of post-secondary education.

Mr. Gillies: With respect, these matters regard another ministry and our time is rather short. That is the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Guindon: I have one more question. In your Futures and skills development programs, are there any programs for francophones? How much are you dedicating towards francophones?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There is no specific allocation. The secret is to ensure the delivery agents are delivering their programs to francophones. That is happening. Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology, for example, as a delivery agent makes counselling services available in the French language.

My expectation is that the youth employment counselling centre in Sudbury will be completely bilingual so that a participant who wants the availability of a counselling service in French will have that. Whether or not the job placement is in an employment environment where the French language is spoken has to be a decision taken in the context of what the young person is looking for, the kind of employment arrangement appropriate to him. I could not guarantee that every francophone would be placed in a work environment where French is spoken, but one would want to work towards that goal.

3 p.m.

Mr. Warner: The question is a very good one. I suspect there is a weakness in the delivery by bilingual people. It will not be universal. In certain centres it will be very good and in other centres where it should be the norm, it may not exist. I suggest that you look very carefully at the Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology, the one in Cornwall and a number of others, to

ensure it is being delivered with a bilingual component for the counselling services and the folks going out to the companies. It is by no means perfect but it warrants examination.

I will concentrate on four questions I wish to raise on Futures and then I will be finished on that. One concerns the \$100 per week. I suspect in some instances that is not adequate. Again, I am looking for flexibility. I am not suggesting you raise the amount. I suggest that in certain instances your professional people delivering programs should have the capacity to increase the amount where it is warranted.

First, you are attempting to reach "street kids." A street kid in Toronto is paying somewhere between \$70 and \$90 a week for a one-room flat with a hotplate and a common toilet for about 10 people, and \$100 to that individual attempting to survive in Metropolitan Toronto does not go very far. While many of the young people coming in are either living with a parent or getting by in one way or another, there will be individuals for whom that \$100 is inadequate. I would like to see flexibility so that the individual counsellor delivering the program can increase that amount.

Second, if you take a good look at your clientele, you may discover a very high percentage of them do not have driver's licences. I was surprised about that when I started going through some of the material, but when I started to think about it, it made sense. A lot of these young people dropped out of school at age 15 or 16 and did not have the wherewithal to pay for driver instruction or access to a car. Many come from poor families who do not have cars. Having a driver's licence might help many of these young people secure employment. It may be a very good part of their possibilities for securing employment.

It would be worth investigating the folks who supply driver instruction to the high schools, Young Drivers of Canada or whatever. They could make arrangements with the high schools to see whether it would be possible to make individual arrangements for certain of your clients whom the counsellors have identified as not having driver's licences for whom this would be a benefit in securing employment. Through the program, you might be able to make arrangements for driver instruction.

I am curious to know whether there has been some information or instruction given, either to the courts or to the police, with respect to what this program is aimed at so they will have a sensitivity to what is being attempted. For example, a community relations officer who is

working with young people may be able to identify individuals for whom this program might be of great benefit. Maybe you have already done that. If you have, that is great. If not, I think that would be a good idea.

Finally, there is a bit of an argument that people who are in your program, if they get a job placement, even a short-term one, will have exposure to computers on the job site. If we look down the road a little, even the person operating the gas-bar kiosk is facing a more computerized operation, having to key in specific numbers for the purchase of products, the credit card check and all of that. It would be helpful to give computer instruction as part of the program at the centre before students go out, to familiarize them with computers. This group of people is sufficiently old that it was not in the school system when the flood of computers came. Five years from now, that problem should have disappeared, but many of these students have not been exposed to computers. It unquestionably requires capital purchases, but a little practical instruction is important and worth while.

Those are my four items.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Perhaps I could ask Bill Wolfson to participate in responding to those four concerns.

Mr. Gillies: With regard to the last point you raised, Mr. Warner, some of the Youth Start centres we opened at Humber College, Sheridan and so on, had computer terminals. Can the minister tell us whether that is still a part of Futures?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Yes.

A number of your questions related to the pre-employment preparation component of Futures. In my first visit to a pre-employment preparation centre, the wide range of kids in those centres amazed me. Some kids were being assisted with fundamental mathematics; I am talking about adding four and four and getting the right answer.

Mr. Warner: I have worked with those kids. I know what you are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am delighted they are there. This is crucial work. I have the greatest respect for the workers doing it. Others have a much higher level of ability.

Your question about computers is a relevant one. My understanding is that many centres have those facilities and they will get that training.

Let us start backwards and go with computers first. Bill, could you speak with more authority

on that issue? By the way, Bill Wolfson is the director responsible for youth programs.

Mr. Warner: Including Futures?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Including Futures.

Mr. Wolfson: A number of our pre-employment preparation centres have computer-based learning assistance in them which would expose young people to the new technology. It is also fair to say, as you suggested, that a number of these young people are novices in this area. Some of them are a little reluctant to become involved.

Prior to the introduction of Futures, we went through an exercise to try to mount a special program of computer-based training for employment-disadvantaged young people. When we surveyed the youth employment counselling system and asked it how many young people it thought would participate in such an intensive computer instruction program, we were astounded by the low response rate. Apparently it is very difficult to get these young people interested in the new technology. It is a real challenge.

Mr. Warner: I know it is a challenge.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That sort of training may be more relevant in the educational upgrading component of the one-year guarantee. Personally, I have been delighted at the number taking up that guarantee. As you know, everyone who takes it up has to take on the challenge of three hours per week of educational upgrading. This comes in a variety of forms.

I do not know whether you spoke about that in your visit to Thunder Bay; the youth employment counselling centre there has difficulty in finding any forum to do that other than in correspondence courses. The correspondence courses are the available model. The counsellors there oversee the process to ensure the young person is fulfilling his commitment. That sort of thing could be encouraged for those young people who take up the educational upgrading commitment.

That is four. I am not sure whether we have completely satisfied you on that.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Warner: You are right about the challenge. You have a head start because those young people have been motivated to come in the door. Because they are there and they want a job, you say before they hit the job location: "If you want to get a job, we think you can get one operating the gas kiosk down the street, but it has some fancy equipment. Here is what it looks like and here is how it functions." It is going to be

difficult enough for a lot of these young people to go into this job location for the first time without having the added curve thrown at them of equipment they know nothing about. Therefore, why not do it first before they go to the job?

There is a reluctance. That is very natural. I worked with this type of student for a long time and I know what you are talking about. I know the challenge. However, once those kids are motivated, it is amazing what they will do. If it is properly presented, they will respond well to that equipment.

Mr. Wolfson: Part of the answer may have to do with the kind of training plan put in place for a young person. That is the issue. You might debate whether this is the pre-employment preparation that is required or whether these exposures to the new technology can come on the job as part of the training plan for a young person. If the employer is willing to provide the supervision and the training, it might be appropriate that the first couple of weeks be exposure to the technology under supervision and so on. We can get some of those benefits through on-the-job training rather than in the centre.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That was four.

Mr. Warner: Yes. Three was the police and the courts.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The primary reason we spent as much as we did on advertising was to speak directly to young people. Therefore, we advertised at bus terminals, subway stations, shopping plazas and on radio stations that young people listen to. The second reason was to speak to the broader community.

I cannot answer whether we have had specific communication with police forces. Bill, do you know of anything in that regard?

Mr. Wolfson: We have distributed information on Futures to a wide network of social-service delivery organizations. I cannot honestly tell you whether the chief of police in every municipality was on the mailing list.

I know as well that we had conversations with Ministry of Correctional Services officials. As you probably know, many of our delivery organizations have fee-for-service contracts with the Ministry of Correctional Services. They have been well briefed on Futures. I can only assume that information has been disseminated through their system.

Mr. Warner: What about the driver's licence and driver training?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It is an interesting suggestion. I do not know whether they do driver training. Bill, do you have any idea?

Mr. Wolfson: I am not aware of that. I could not answer one way or the other. I have not heard of that happening.

Mr. Warner: I do not think it does. I am putting it forward as something to be considered. It may help many of your clients.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Sure. Let us get that message out. Let us find out whether that sort of thing is needed. It could be done as part of pre-employment preparation. We might want to hear from youth employment counselling centres whether this is a deficiency that could make a substantial difference to a number of clients.

Now, the first item was residential allowances, as I recall.

Mr. Warner: You have \$100, yes.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will let Bill discuss that. Apparently there is something in that regard.

Mr. Wolfson: The residential component of Futures in part addresses the problem of young people who do not have adequate housing or shelter. There is about \$3 million directed towards the provision of shelter for young people participating in Futures. In the past, it has been directed to those in the pre-employment preparation component, but in the future we would look at it more broadly, namely, for anybody involved in Futures who requires that assistance.

Mr. Warner: Who makes the decision about whether the individual receives the housing allowance?

Mr. Wolfson: We have revised the procedures and guidelines of the residential component to bring them into Futures. It is a referral process from the Futures delivery organization. The beds are designated for Futures participants and they have the priority. This was not always the case in the past.

Mr. Gillies: I have a supplementary on what we were talking about earlier in terms of barriers to training. I refer specifically to programs in your training branch such as the technical upgrading program.

Members of the committee will know that most training opportunities offered at the federal level through the Department of Employment and Immigration carry with them a training allowance or stipend. Ours do not; in many cases, there is a seat in a community college without any stipend. As Mr. Warner mentioned earlier, this often causes a problem for welfare mothers and others who would like to take the training but cannot afford it because they cannot afford day care for the children.

At one point we were considering a training allowance for programs such as TUP, the technical upgrading program. Is that still a possibility?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me try to address the question of whether we are looking at broader access. In short, the answer is yes. I cannot tell you what it will look like in the end. We are going through the process.

Mr. Gillies: In our throne speech we had proposed a training access fund of \$10 million. Are you looking at something like that?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We have increased the allocation for TUP. We are also following the wisdom of your government, looking at training access specifically for women in all these programs.

I expect that with the training in business and industry program, TUP and the initiatives in the Ministry of Skills Development on the adult training side, the end result of our review will be a fairly comprehensive restructuring. I cannot tell you now what it is going to look like. When you were minister, you were sensitive to unemployed youth too. I have the sense that exists on the adult side as well, that many of the initiatives of the federal and provincial governments have been made using an ad hoc approach.

There is a growing consensus within the province that training has to play a more vital role in the work place; that is, on-the-job training. Community colleges have to be far more in tune with the training needs of the surrounding community. We have to understand the role of government in training as a vehicle for the access of women to the work place. I have had lengthy discussions on that issue with the Attorney General in his capacity as minister responsible for the women's directorate.

3:20 p.m.

I would be fooling you if I were to say the plans are about to crystallize. I would prefer to take the time to do the research and ensure we make a substantive improvement on what existed previously. That is not to cast criticism on TUP or TIBI, but to say that as the consciousness of the community changes, the nature of government programs has to shift. There will be a substantial shift so that we deal with the issue of access, not only for women but for native people as well. Our programs have to be sensitive to the issue of race relations. We have to be relevant to native people.

The agenda is a substantial one. Rather than get into any more ad hoc activities, we have

stepped back to do the analysis that must precede a major review of the system. We have to do it within the context of what is going on at the federal level—a clear reduction in the commitment of resources to job creation and training—which has given rise to confusion and uncertainty in every province.

We have to formulate our plans based on what the federal government will do in the future. It is desperately concerned to reduce deficits. Reduced deficits in this area are simply an exercise in deficit transfer because, as there is a federal reduction and a growing consensus in the province, the broad mandate of the Ministry of Skills Development is becoming more important. We will have to assume the financial obligations.

You know as well as I do that there are discussions with the Treasurer on those things. We have not taken dramatic steps to improve TUP and to improve access, but I hope we do.

Mr. Gillies: I agree it would be a good initiative.

Mr. Partington: I have one last question on Futures. You mentioned earlier that we have spent a good deal of money on promoting Futures.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Yes.

Mr. Partington: I wonder whether you would tell me how much is a good deal. What is the advertising cost to date on it?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am told the expenditures on advertising are \$600,000.

Mr. Warner: The advertising thing is interesting. I could be wrong in my assessment, but generally speaking, the advertising has been more evident outside Metro Toronto than within.

Second, while you have advertised, which is very important—and I saw the big billboards in place—do you know why the kids are coming into the place? So far as I can determine, it is by word of mouth. Kids say, "My friend told me it was a good place to come," which ultimately is the best advertising.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Sure.

Mr. Warner: I do not know whether that was because of the billboards.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Did you notice there was no red in the advertising?

Mr. Warner: I noticed that.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Did you notice how small "Gregory Sorbara, Minister of Skills Development" was?

Mr. Warner: I liked the green. I thought that was a nice artistic touch.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There is an accord. It has not been torn up yet.

Mr. Chairman: Did you have Mr. Warner's name on it?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We did, but it was very small: "Critic, NDP."

As I travelled around the province and saw those ads, sometimes I wanted to say, "My God, there is another one." I do not think we are outside Metro Toronto more than we are in. I do not listen to the stations the kids listen to, so I have not heard a radio ad, but I hear they are very effective.

We all know we are moving into a different world. Information is the name of the game, and there is an information explosion. I agree with you that, ultimately, word of mouth will be important. This advertising business is not going to continue for the several years of life of Futures. Word of mouth will ultimately be the name of the game.

Nevertheless, in a world where each of us is bombarded with so much stuff, we felt it was important to tell the world publicly about the program, and specifically the kids.

Mr. Warner: I have a concern about one aspect. I wonder if you have unintentionally created some unfair competition for the high schools.

Some high schools run co-op re-entry programs which are designed to attract essentially the same person you are looking for, but obviously they cannot pay them. They make contract arrangements with employers in the community who are willing to be part of the co-op re-entry program.

I am wondering if you have unintentionally created some unfair competition for which the high school will suffer.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not think so. I do not think we should cast these sorts of initiatives in the context of competition. There was some concern about how this would affect the co-op re-entry programs. I think that in many respects we are talking about, sometimes, a different clientele, a different geographic area, a different approach to a similar problem.

If we, in our capacity as the jurisdiction responsible for education, could somehow ensure that every young person in the province completed a full high school education program, and if far more of them went on to community

colleges, there would not be a need for a Futures program or those co-op re-entry programs.

We all know we have an alarmingly high secondary school dropout rate. I would prefer not to have to bring on a Futures program. I wish we did not have the social climate that necessitated the Futures program.

We could have ensured that in every ministry, whether it was the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, or the Ministry of Education, there was not even a remote possibility of infringing on turf. We could have done that, but I think it was more important to launch the program.

One of the keys to Futures is that senior bureaucrats, when they are not warring, have been told by me that we must maintain a flexibility in terms of design. This does not mean that we change the program every month, but our monitoring process must be such that we identify weaknesses and have the courage to say, "If that is a weakness, then we are going to change that."

Mostly, we have heard about strengths, but they will come up. There is no doubt about that. There will be a need to make some alterations. I do not want even to embark on suggesting what those changes will be. I think we need a good deal of experience before we start tinkering.

Mr. Warner: I agree. The program has only been in place a short period of time, and there is a perception, at least on behalf of some of the folks out there delivering the program, that you are very flexible. That comment was made to me on several occasions by people who seemed to be quite impressed by your ministry and its flexibility.

Regarding the situation with the co-op re-entry programs, I would urge that if, after a little bit of time, the figures indicate that by accident you are causing a problem for the high schools, somebody should attend to it. We are looking at a high school system that has a particular mandate, that has gone in and established programs, and so on. I think that deserves some sensitivity.

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I have heard other complaints from school boards about the fact that the educational upgrading commitment might too often be carried on through a community college rather than through a program in a high school, such as night school.

When I went to Thunder Bay, I was shocked to hear from the youth employment counselling centre that, try as they did to find a high school program to tap, there were none. There would only be a few who could access that if they went

in at the right time. The vast majority who had made that commitment would have to do it through correspondence courses.

I am sure there are school boards that are saying: "We could do that. It should never happen in community colleges." Frankly, I am not concerned about that sort of thing. I am more concerned that the kids who take up that challenge get three relevant hours, and I do not care where it comes.

Mr. Chairman: I would remind committee members that we have an hour and eight minutes left, so you can govern yourselves accordingly. We will give Mr. Bossy a question now.

Mr. Bossy: The minister just made a comment on the tremendous number of young people who are dropping out of school. We are trying to remedy the problem by developing skills.

I am very concerned that our colleges and universities have not really been able to identify what skills are required to create a job, to have a job. I feel strongly that too many of those graduates are graduating into unemployment. The young people who drop out are doing it on the basis of seeing people graduating, proud at having their certificates, but having no jobs. Now we are trying to help these people develop a skill for a job that really should have been attacked much sooner, or been identified.

We talked earlier about the co-operation between industry, government and education. Without industry, we are fighting a losing battle, without being able to identify what will be required in industry, and for what kinds of jobs we are retraining them.

We talk about retraining programs. I am very much in favour of co-op programs and programs that have on-the-job training, such as apprenticeship programs.

We are targeting youth, but there seems to be a big vacuum here. We are falling very far behind in identifying what industry really requires. They have five-year forecasts of where they are going. It is incumbent upon industry to provide input that will help government and education resolve this problem. At the same time, it is incumbent upon the government to provide funding in the right areas.

I think that, sometimes, as has been said here, we bring in Band-Aid programs. However, we must have a program with a long-term vision, whereby a program can be put in place that will function for years to come, definitely identifying jobs.

Training is good, and retraining is good, but we have to know for what we are training or

retraining people. I think that this is one of the biggest frustrations, not only for young people, but also for older people—people in their 40s and early 50s—who are caught in this whole thing and have been laid off because of the technological changes. Many people have only a grade 8 education, and some less than that. How do you retrain those people to come into line with high technology?

We can identify with a local area. I like to identify with our area, which is mainly dependent on the automotive industry. If a college educates within an area and does not have the proper equipment or is not in tune with the main industries in the community, it creates problems that we have to resolve with other programs. We have talked about computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing. This is the future in industry. What are your views on this thrust of computer-aided design and manufacturing? Where does this fall in?

I am sure that with ministry funding, some of these programs should be able to flow from here to a college with an identified need to work with industry, where the industry buys places, not necessarily within the government, and the government helps the institution to set up the equipment in conjunction with other industries, and then is able to train people to operate the highly sophisticated pieces of equipment coming into the plant. What are your views? Do you feel we have adequate funding to achieve that? That is training and skills development all in one.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The short answer to the question of adequate funding is no. I do not think we do, not yet.

Let me discuss one or two of the issues you raised at the beginning of your comments. One is the question of the training at colleges and universities. If the young people dropping out of high school were to stay there and take up a college or university program, we would be in far better shape, collectively, as a province.

A university degree or a college diploma still represents one of the best tickets to permanent, meaningful employment that this society offers to its young and older people. We make a substantial investment in that constituency. The budget of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is about \$2.2 billion. It is an important investment. We must continue to enhance the resources available there.

Our institutions have to do a better job, not only educating in skills that will be required in the future but also generally educating our society to make it collectively more intelligent,

brighter, sharper and more in tune. The fact is that two thirds of the population are not part of that constituency and do not participate in any degree whatsoever. This is the constituency that the Ministry of Skills Development has to help, to ensure they have the skills to participate in a vibrant way in the work force.

3:40 p.m.

You mentioned the linking with business and industry and the co-operation that is needed. I am hopeful that in the future we can use the local community industrial training committees which identify those needs. You must understand that the constituent parts of a CITC are businesses, educators and labour in the community so the training needs can most appropriately be identified there and programs mounted in colleges, outside or on the job.

We anticipate a structure in the ministry, through a newly mandated Ontario Manpower Commission linking up with CITCs, to give us both a provincial and local perspective on needs. That can work.

Can an economy survive based simply on a skilled work force? No. Obviously, there has to be an economic infrastructure providing employment opportunities, but there is a little chicken-and-egg there. For example, the Toyota Canada Inc. investment I mentioned in my opening remarks contained a component for training. Toyota is very concerned about having a work force that can put into play the skills it will use in its facility. More broadly, it appears more and more that when a business is contemplating an investment in Ontario, its first questions relate to the skills of the people rather than infrastructures such as roads and services. In other words, society will no longer rely on its rich endowment of natural resources and its brute ability to extract, harness or saw them.

We will be identified as a vibrant economy based on the capacity of our work force. That force has to be trained in anticipation of economic possibilities. In that respect, any training offered to an individual is good. It expands his abilities and the horizon of opportunities that he can leap at. We have to be responsive to existing industry and cognizant of the fact that training, even if there are no immediate opportunities, is a good investment because it is preparation for an opportunity when it arises.

You talked about computer-assisted design and manufacture. That is the leading edge of the high-technology field. It is also the status quo as far as where industry is going. We have devoted a

lot of provincial money to supporting the installation of computer-assisted design and manufacturing facilities in community colleges.

I had a regime of opening one a month for a while. We have to do more of it. Our ultimate objective has to be facing the fact that, and this is a difficult one that deals with the changing nature of society, we are no longer a society where an individual is, for all his life, a carpenter or, for all his life, anything, because the work place is changing rapidly and will continue to change even more rapidly.

We have to develop a new psychology, a new view of how we organize our lives. It has to incorporate the idea that every individual probably will be a learner, someone who goes back to an institution, goes through a vigorous regime of on-the-job training and develops new skills at several intervals in his life. That is difficult because my experience is that all of us resist change whenever we can. We like things the way they are.

Mr. Bossy: We need to have a mobile labour force.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We have to have mobile skills. We have to be flexible in the way we view what we will be doing with our lives.

Mr. Bossy: The situation in Sudbury is an example of a community with only one industry. We have not had that situation in my own community. When that industry computerizes or makes a complete change to more sophisticated equipment, the old, traditional jobs that were there will no longer be there. We are faced today with a tremendous number of unemployed people who cannot be retrained because of age, yet do not have the means to continue.

The in thing when I went to school was that you wanted to finish grade 8. To get to grade 8 was very important. The next thing was grade 13. The next thing after that was university: you must have a BA. Where are we bringing the levels of common education now?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is the reality, like it or not.

Mr. Bossy: The cost of retraining becomes tremendous. How much can a government afford?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The reality is that this is the case. It used to be that once one had been called to the bar as a solicitor, one was competent to practise generally in the area of lawyering. Now you really need about five years of good on-the-job training before you could ever say you were competent in any particular area of the law.

Mr. Newman: If you have only five years, you are going to be undereducated.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It may well be, but I got only two years before I came to this job, so I am in real trouble. I am going to keep this job for quite a while.

One of the things you mentioned was computer-assisted design and computer-assisted manufacturing. I am advised by my deputy that about two thirds of the training in business and industry program goes to high-tech training, such as CAD/CAM.

Mr. Partington: I would like to get back to the last question I asked the minister.

Mr. Chairman: We have 44 minutes; 22 for you and 22 for Mr. Wiseman.

Mr. Partington: As Mr. Gillies said, five hours is much too short for such an important topic as this. Getting back to the last question I asked on advertising, I want to quote from a statement made by the then Leader of the Opposition, now the Premier, on January 8, 1984:

"To give credit where credit is due—though I must say that the Conservatives have managed to continue what they do best: spending money on self-promotion—to date, more than \$1 million has been spent to advertise the plethora of new programs."

In view of the experience you now have with Futures, I am wondering whether you might agree that the \$1 million spent by the Conservatives is reasonable, and whether perhaps you would pass that message on to the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the approaches we have taken with respect to advertising, and creating the appropriate forum to arbitrate as to who gets the contracts, were a very important initiative that set us apart from the previous government. In many instances, advertising must be used extensively to do something such as launching a Futures program.

I do not want to talk about what went on in the previous government—I was not sitting in the House at that time—but the fact is that there is advertising and there is advertising. When you see a simple 30-second television spot about what the forestry ministry is doing, in a general way, you really have to question that. It is not giving information on any specific program.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Partington: I just thought that with the fact that you spent \$600,000 on your one program—and I am not questioning the amount spent; it may well have been reasonably spent—

you might agree that the \$1 million spent by the previous government on all its youth programs may be reasonable.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, I am not sure I would agree with that at all.

Mr. Partington: I just want to bring that to your attention.

Would the minister tell us how many people are employed in the minister's office on a full-time, part-time and contract basis and what their positions and salaries are? That is a three-part question, or three subquestions.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I cannot talk and chew gum at the same time, nor listen to two conversations at the same time.

Mr. Partington: How many people are employed full-time, part-time and on a contract basis in the minister's office? What are their positions and what are their annual salaries?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Have we not gone through this before in the House? Do you really want that information now?

Mr. Partington: Certainly, I should like it.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not sure we have it at hand. We may have to table an answer for you because I do not think we brought those statistics.

Are you going to ask that question every time we meet?

Mr. Partington: This is the first time I have asked you.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Did you not table a question in that regard and did we not answer it?

Mr. Partington: It was similar to that. Is that the one you are going to give me an answer to on February 14?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, I think that one has been provided.

Mr. Partington: Will you have that information here today?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, we do not have specific salary information. I think those numbers have been tabled.

Mr. Partington: How many people are working in your office?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not have the number.

Mr. Newman: They are all working, are they not?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My colleague the member for Windsor-Walkerville gave me the answer that I want, and I think he is right. They are all working overtime.

I do not have the details here but I will provide you with them in written form, if they have not already been provided in written form.

Mr. Partington: All right. How much money have you spent on consultants' fees since you took over as minister?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: How much money have I personally spent?

Mr. Partington: How much money has the ministry spent on consultant's fees?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We shall need to call upon our financial experts. I am not sure we have that information at hand. Perhaps we could table the question and provide an answer.

Mr. Partington: Sure. Could you also provide me with answers to two follow-up questions? Who are the consultants and what services did they provide to the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We will wrap that all up in one answer.

Mr. Newman: Send a \$10 bill along with your question, though.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We have a fee now, is that not so? A fee has to be paid to get those answers.

Mr. Partington: It is called a hidden tax. It is happening everywhere now.

At what stage are the plans to provide the ministry with space accommodation of its own so that the staff are basically in one area?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think now you are trying to encourage us to spend more rather than less.

Mr. Gillies: Absolutely.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The space arrangements are not pleasant ones, particularly for a minister who is responsible for two ministries. Personally, I would like to be able to resolve those difficulties much sooner than I think they will be resolved. However, a government has to be concerned about expenditures on very expensive space in the core of Toronto.

Currently, my offices and those of the deputy minister and senior officials are on the 13th floor of 101 Bloor Street West. The deputy minister and senior officials in the ministry are there. The ministry has office space in several buildings in the Queen's Park area and branch offices located throughout the province.

In my capacity as Minister of Colleges and Universities, we have arranged for the deputy and the assistant deputy also to occupy space in 101 Bloor, although most of the officials in the ministry remain in the Mowat Block. We are not prepared to rush out and lease more new space. People are working under difficult circumstances.

Mr. Partington: It is not really satisfactory but you are prepared to accept it because of the cost constraints. Is that it?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There are a number of things to speak to on that issue. First, as I said earlier, each of the ministries is very sparsely staffed at this point relative to its mandate. We are having discussions with Management Board of Cabinet to identify our needs and receive approval for them. I have always thought it was more appropriate to identify and confirm our needs before you make commitments for space. I like to know how big the family will be before I buy a house for it.

Mr. Partington: That is logical.

Mr. Gillies: Are many of your support services still provided from outside the ministry? When we were setting up in the spring, for example, our payroll capacity was with Treasury. Have you internalized that yet or are you still relying on other ministries for a number of services?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Perhaps Frank Kidd could answer that better than I.

Mr. Kidd: Our payroll is processed through four different ministries. We are working on reducing that to two, although, as you indicated, previously it was through Treasury. The people who came from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities are being processed through Education; those from Municipal Affairs are processed through Housing, and those from the Ontario Manpower Commission through Labour. I have made arrangements with colleagues in these other ministries to consolidate many activities in two main areas.

That is one consideration regarding space because we are pursuing the sharing of services with our sister ministries, particularly Colleges and Universities and Education. It is foolhardy to create another empire, so we have to share personnel and other services with them. Not everyone needs a library or data processing operators. We can share those. That is part of the consideration concerning space. We will continue to consolidate, to negotiate arrangements with our sister ministries and, we hope, arrive at the most efficient and cost-effective method of providing service to the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I want to add that I am not sure whether it is a good choice for our ministry to have a Scot engineering this whole arrangement, but I expect we will emerge as a lean but vital ministry in terms of our bureaucratic organization. We are not trying, as Mr. Kidd

said, to create an empire. We are trying to identify our needs and ensure a bureaucratic structure consistent with our mandate to which we can quickly respond.

4 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: I can appreciate you would not want to spend unnecessary funds, but this relates to the problem Mr. Warner raised earlier. As long as the ministry is scattered, with a couple of floors in the Mowat Block and a couple in the Maclean Hunter Building, for example, I wonder whether the staff will feel part of the whole, if they will relate to the new ministry. That situation may be militating towards warfare, friction or whatever you want to call it, at the staff level.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You make a good point. It is much more difficult to operate a ministry that occupies so many different locations and has historical links with other ministries. We have, in some small measure been less efficient than we have wanted to be because of that. Nevertheless, we are on a clear agenda to secure the commitments we need from Management Board in terms of personnel so that we can then begin to house ourselves.

I do not think our government is any different from yours in this regard. That kind of staff moves rather more slowly than what is clearly the more important stuff, and that is program. However, I am confident that we are on an agenda that will get us there in sufficient time.

Meanwhile, we work with what we have. I think it important that we keep on that agenda. I am not concerned that I do not have a washroom. I do not need lavish space. Maybe some day I will get one; I do not know. Most ministers do. I do not think it a crucial thing. What is your comment about that, Mr. Newman? I think it makes us rather folksy.

Mr. Chairman: Not for the record.

Mr. Kidd: Maybe I could give some further information on the space issue. We have had good meetings with the Ministry of Government Services, both with the deputy and his senior staff, and they inform us that the Ontario government has a vacancy rate of 0.5 per cent in its accommodation holdings.

In the private sector, seven to nine per cent is considered a good vacancy rate. The present Ontario government is operating at 0.5 per cent, so the flexibility, the elbow room, the domino effects that are created are very difficult to cope with. I do not know who is to be proud of that

record, but that is a very good record in occupancy vacancy.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There is a Scot running Government Services, I bet.

Mr. Gillies: They never let me have a washroom, either, but then Mr. Tully never gave me time to go anyway.

Mr. Partington: A couple of figures leaped out at me as I read the estimates.

On page 17, which gives the activity financial summary of the ministry administration program, the 1984-85 estimates for salaries are \$798,700, and the 1985-86 estimates are \$1,233,900. It is an increase in excess of 50 per cent in one year. I am just wondering if you would explain why that item was increased.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We are desperately searching here for the page. Who has a copy of these estimates? You are referring to line 1 on page 17, under salaries.

Mr. Partington: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In general terms, we should point out that the 1984-85 figures arise for a ministry in infancy and the 1985-86 figures speak to a full ministry. More detail would probably best be given by Frank Kidd.

Mr. Kidd: The figures for ministry administration include all the administration that the ministry inherited as of April 1, 1985. It includes only the minister, the deputy and those staff members on the administrative side who were transferred to the Ministry of Skills Development.

I think there were about 30 staff members transferred for administrative purposes from the Ministry of Education, the former provincial secretariat for social development, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The previous year's figures reflect these salaries, but they do not reflect the deputy minister's office. They reflect a ministerial salary, but Mr. Gillies could enlighten us about a Minister of Youth, a Minister without Portfolio and a Minister of Skills Development, all in the last year and the beginning of this year. These are the actual figures that were in place on April 1, so that the increase is mainly for the deputy and for a full minister's office, which were not in existence in 1984-85.

Mr. Warner: It is frustrating that we have 20 minutes left and I have so many items I wish to raise. This is a promise, not a threat. I will be raising a number of items systematically over the

next while because I have deep concern about some things.

I should like to return for a moment to this Canada-Ontario training agreement. If I understand properly what you told me after lunch, you signed a letter of intent that promises to deliver more money to Ontario than in the previous fiscal year. However, it is dependent on federal cabinet approval. I am wondering if it is possible that the federal cabinet could decide to decrease the amount of money it will transfer to the province and divert funds to put directly into private institutions offering services parallel to those of the community colleges.

I frame it this way: First, I think that is a possibility. I will tell you why. This agreement or this approach to the Canadian Job Strategy is part of the federal government's overall perspective of deregulation. We are seeing in Ottawa a consistent effort to deregulate every conceivable aspect of what we have built up in this country. One has to wonder how much damage the Tories can do in four years in Ottawa and the imagination probably is not sufficient to encompass that.

However, in this area, deregulation will come about if they are able to fund privately operated institutions and supply money directly to companies to do training and thus undercut the colleges, the Ministry of Skills Development, apprenticeship programs and everything we have built which is not only of benefit ultimately to Ontario but to the individual involved. That is the concept of an individual having a skill he can market. This is bad news.

I have two questions: (1) I would appreciate, if it is possible, a copy of this letter of intent; (2) you mentioned something about it being reviewable after one year. I am wondering what kind of review it could be. How ironclad is this thing? At the end of a year, do we have the opportunity to escape?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: First, I will deliver to you a copy of the letter of intent.

Mr. Warner: Excellent. Personal service too.
4:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You make a good point when you say the initiatives of the federal government are in some ways threatening the vitality of what is going on in the provinces. I remind you that training is an area of provincial jurisdiction and we intend to maintain and fulfil our obligations in that regard.

That being said, one cannot control the federal right to spend its money where it chooses. Ultimately, our only tool is political pressure and

the political ramifications of what they undertake. The ability of the federal government to spend is clear and all the constitutional precedents are there.

I can take this back to the context of the letter of intent. The opening position of the federal government was absurd, particularly because of the brutal ramifications it would have in our training institutions. That is not to say we should simply maintain the vitality of community colleges so they can be vital and keep up their staff levels and enrolments. It is absurd because it was based on a premise that community colleges across Canada were not doing a good job of training. The information upon which they were basing their original approach was erroneous.

In my view, we backed the federal government off its position as far as we could with respect to direct purchases and compensated by providing for new market-driven mechanisms that would replace the direct-purchase mechanism.

Collectively, I think we are in as good a position as we would have been under the successor to the National Training Act. What we have under this agreement in terms of ramifications is not very much different from what existed under the predecessor to Canadian Jobs Strategy. Under the regime in existence for this fiscal year, the National Training Act, the federal government has the right to cut back on direct purchases by 10 per cent a year. Clearly, it was prepared to do that to meet the cutbacks under Canadian Jobs Strategy.

In the regime that exists under the letter of intent, we acknowledged that we anticipate those sorts of cutbacks, perhaps even more severe because potentially it ends up at a minimum 40 per cent cutback in direct purchases. We accommodate for that. We are saying: "If you are serious about your political rhetoric about maintaining and enhancing the level of training that goes on, we want to know about it in the level of intent and in the agreement that follows upon the letter of intent." That is why we have made provision for indirect and market-driven purchases.

Mr. Gillies: What was the wording in the letter? I think this is a crucial issue. Last May the feds were talking about cutting \$30 million. We went up and raised hell. I think we got about \$10 million of it back, which led to the shortfall you mentioned earlier of about \$20 million this past year. Unless we are very specific with them, my concern is they will vacate the field in terms of training, and you, with the very best of intentions, could top up that funding at the

provincial level which makes it that much easier for them to vacate the field.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You are talking about two different issues. You are talking about general industrial and critical trades skills training and so forth under negotiations you were involved in. What we are talking about under the letter of intent is not that field. We are talking about institutional training. We are talking about seat purchases.

Mr. Gillies: The trend seems to be the same in both areas.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not going to be an apologist for the federal government and its determination to reduce the amount it spends on job creation and training and its desire to vacate the field. Ontario is a vibrant economy and I could use political rhetoric, such as that this threatens the economic vitality and future of this province. There are threats, clearly.

The ramifications for some of our sister provinces are more severe than for Ontario, because of our ability to take up the slack. If the federal trend continues that we have seen in the established-programs financing and the Canadian Job Strategy, I believe the costs for the provincial Treasury will be significant in the short term. In the long term, it may require ministers of finance or treasurers and the federal Minister of Finance to talk about the fact that provinces have taken up areas the federal government has abandoned, and we have to renegotiate the tax structure in this country. That sort of ebb and flow is characteristic of this Canadian federation.

In the short term, it may mean a reduction of the federal deficit and an increase in provincial deficits. In the long term, it must be a reallocation of tax points and access to taxation in this country. I am obviously not the Treasurer and do not know when those discussions will be initiated, but those are the long-term implications.

We have a constitutional responsibility in education and training. We believe the federal government has a responsibility to provide the resources because of its taxing power, to ensure that we have the resources to carry out our constitutional responsibility. If it withdraws, we will need more access to taxation. That is bad for the federal system because of the history of equalization and providing equity across Canada, but I cannot change its mind.

Regarding institutional training, we had restrictions with respect to time. There has to be a certainty out there. We could have had yet

another and another conference and try to mount such a high public profile on this issue that we could get Michael Wilson to bend. Look at the initiative it took to get the Minister of Finance in Ottawa to change his mind about deindexation of old age pensions. Unfortunately, training does not have the same appeal as that.

We have so far been unable to do it on established programs financing, notwithstanding it was one of the most important issues confronting ministers at the first ministers' conference. Given that reality and the need for certainty so colleges could plan, we did not get the deal we wanted. I acknowledge that. We wanted firm increments indexed to inflation and were willing to investigate new models: reduction in direct seat purchases, market-driven forces, the community industrial training committee utilization. Instead of a firm commitment on incremental funding in institutional training, we got a political commitment; that is, I acknowledged to the entire world, subject to federal budgetary approval. It was not as good as we wanted, although it is a deal we can live with. We can now get on with the planning that has to be done in our institutions.

You spoke to the review. I will take a drink of water and let my deputy speak more directly to that.

Mr. Tully: In the letter of intent and the agreement that will follow it, the province and the federal government have agreed to look at the new mechanisms for purchasing institutional training to assess their effectiveness with regard to both the impact on training and the quality of that training, and the impact on the college system. That review would take place in the second year, and it would explicitly affect federal decisions with respect to any further cuts that might take place in direct purchasing.

The federal minister has made certain political commitments, as well, with respect to that review. Her view is that if it does not work—and she acknowledges that she is moving on faith to a certain extent—she is prepared to back off on the direction of moving it.

Mr. Warner: Okay. I have just one last word on it before I move on to my remaining points.

The direct purchase is obviously a concern. With respect, I think it could also be viewed as a bit of a smokescreen. What worries me about that mob on Parliament Hill up there is that if they are so determined to undermine their college system, as it appears they are, they will direct more and more money into companies to provide private

training and into private concerns which are paralleling the college system.

I think that you and this government have a responsibility to protect the system we have built up, and to expand it—to develop the skills training programs here in Ontario through your ministry, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and our high school system, and not to allow what the Tories seem to want to take place to actually happen.

I think you have to fight them every step of the way. They may put in more money to protect those placements, but that is only one part of the problem. I think there is a deeper problem.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me just respond to that.

Mr. Warner: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As Minister of Skills Development, I will not oversee the creation of a parallel private training industry in Ontario.

Mr. Warner: Good.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not think we need it. I think our colleges do a good job. The private sector has a role to play in becoming involved in training and developing on-the-job training models. I am certainly not, however, in the business of advocating a parallel private structure.

Mr. Warner: Since we are going to run out of time, there are, as I mentioned, a number of what I think are key issues which I will pursue over the next little while. One is retraining for older workers where change in technology has created a difficulty, where companies have shut down, or there are particular problems. Another is apprenticeship, because apprenticeship, as a topic, deserves quite an examination.

I wanted to spend a couple of minutes to preface two items. One is community-based programs, particularly for women in nontraditional jobs, or to prepare women for nontraditional jobs. I want to preface that remark by saying that I really see distinct roles, for the community colleges and the youth employment counselling centres, for the community-based programs—separate, distinct and complementary to one another, and not set up in some kind of competition whereby one of them is going to be driven out of the show.

With respect to the community-based programs, the minister might be interested in a six-month study which was completed in December 1985 by the Association for Community-Based Training and Education for Women. There is one paragraph in particular which I think

speaks very well to the problems which some of the community-based programs are now facing, or are about to face. I am quoting from page 34 of this study.

"The complexity of women's specific learning needs requires a community-based, noninstitutional, autonomous and decentralized program that avoids procedural red tape to remain flexible. The traditional attitude is that students must fit into the educational system or get out. This is counter-productive for those who are disadvantaged. That is why ACTEW—that is the acronym for the group—"programs take the opposite tack. They adapt their service and training to meet client needs continually."

If you look at some of these community-based programs—and I mention West End Machining as a good example—they are taking essentially the same kind of approach that you are with Futures. They are looking for a specific clientele, women who are in disadvantaged positions and have not completed their schooling in a lot of cases, and they are providing life, academic and real skills with respect to machining or whatever it happens to be. The placement success is very high, and the reviews I saw on West End Machining from the employers were highly complimentary.

The concern is that if the federal government is in a process of withdrawing funds from many of those programs, the programs will be left to flounder. They will either have to find the money in the community, which will be very difficult—they are not opposed to finding money in the community, but they cannot manage the whole amount—or they will be forced to affiliate with a community college to survive. As I say, the community colleges in a lot of areas are doing an admirable job, but there is no reason why these programs cannot exist on their own because they are delivering their program in a special way and dealing with a special clientele, just as your Futures program is.

My pitch to you is that they deserve support. I ask you to take a good, close look at them from a philosophical and practical standpoint, program by program, as they approach you, and take the difficult way of looking at them individually. A good bureaucratic approach is that everybody should be lumped into one thing and tagged through the system in that way. They deserve special attention and should be dealt with in that way.

We have about three minutes left, I believe. I want to touch briefly on a philosophical matter, because there are serious concerns which you, as minister, will have to deal with over the next

while in the whole area of skills development. Mr. Bossy touched on it earlier.

In part, we have a philosophical problem that has grown up over decades, this notion that a white-collar worker is better than a blue-collar worker. The really bright people go through high school and university, and the ones who are not so bright are shipped off to trade school.

I suspect the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines, the previous government's idea of streamlining things, unfortunately may contribute to that philosophy because they have downgraded the vocational aspect of programs previously offered in the high schools. At the same time, they also downgraded the cultural and arts side. I suggest you take a very close look and see whether there is some way of monitoring what effect OSIS is having on students who, of their own volition, might choose to be involved in the trades.

The streaming we have done over decades has cost us; we have paid a price for it. We have created a class consciousness that it is better to be a white-collar worker than a blue-collar worker. If success in apprenticeships and skills training in general is going to come, we have to try to erase that notion. I suspect that in so doing, the whole educational system must be examined.

What are we doing from the time little children enter elementary school? Their attitudes start in junior kindergarten and at home. However, they are in the school system, and the streaming and the attitudes we have about who goes into vocational school are part of it and, as I say, the OSIS approach may be part of it as well. Over time it will be a challenge for the government to change the direction.

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: David, let me have a moment or two to respond to that second issue. In many respects, you are right, but you speak to a fundamental element in our society which we have to look at very closely. I am not sure what mechanisms we use to turn that around.

I am a firm believer that we will succeed in the area of skills development and training for our work force generally to the extent that we can foster and nurture pride of occupation in areas where we, as a society, are not doing that. Social consciousness now is that if you are a lawyer—formerly it was a doctor—you are what you ought to be; if somehow you cannot somehow make it as a white-collar professional, we want to assure you of a job.

That is a major challenge. We have to be conscious that whatever occupation one is in, it

deserves a pride that we as a society do not cast upon it now. We are not going to do that in the first year, believe me. However, I am sensitive to this. We have to be conscious of this as we start to implement and change the nature of how we approach training and retraining in the province.

Your comments on community-based work are relevant. In the first few days of the Futures program, there was grave concern among youth employment counselling centres that they were going to be co-opted by community colleges and that all the action would be on community colleges. I think we relieved that fear. There is now an understanding that each of these delivery agents has an important role to play and that they can live side by side. A similar approach to co-operation in other areas is appropriate.

Mr. Gillies: How long do we have, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: We have about four minutes.

Mr. Gillies: I have a four-minute rant. I do not know whether there will be a question mark at the end of this.

Mr. Chairman: We have had lots of statements today and not many questions, but go ahead.

Mr. Gillies: I will find a question in here.

In this whole area of government, we have come a long way. I think about what we have seen today and what has happened in the past year. I say to myself, "I think you have, if not the best job, one of the best jobs in government because you have an opportunity to bring together an area that has been scattered and neglected for far too long."

In one way or another, I have been working in this area since I was elected in 1981. I remember when we prepared for the estimates of the then Provincial Secretariat for Social Development. I was parliamentary assistant. Bill Wolfson, everyone else there and I frantically got ready for estimates. We brought what was known in those days as the "youth envelope." In 1981-82, it was about \$55 million. We came trucking up here. In one day of estimates, we got one question.

I understand my experience with estimates was similar to those of the Minister of Education and the Minister of Colleges and Universities when presenting the ministries' estimates: training apprenticeship was not focused on by members. This is what we had in mind when the Ministry of Skills Development was put together.

As a footnote, your ministry is the last tangible legacy of the Miller government, short-lived as it

was. It is the one thing from Enterprise Ontario that came to be. That is good. I am extremely pleased your government decided to maintain it. I urge you to continue your efforts in the area of adult retraining, particularly with barriers to training. I urge you to continue to refine your youth programs to best serve the people as best we can.

While I and my colleague will be critical from time to time, as is our job and our responsibility—and I have a particularly nasty streak anyway—I do want to say that the establishment and maintenance of this ministry is extremely important. You will have our support in addressing the major issues of the day.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad to hear that from the former minister. I know of his deep and abiding concern in these areas. Frankly, I am glad to inherit the ministry from him. I agree with him that it is one of the best jobs available around the cabinet table. I know he will understand what I say when I say that although I agree with everything he said in that regard, I hope he is never again the Minister of Skills Development, for obvious reasons.

Mr. Chairman: We have about one minute left. Perhaps the chairman could have that one minute.

As you know, the shipbuilding industry in Collingwood and Port Weller is in particularly bad shape at present, not because of the two yards but because of the Canadian scene where about 40 per cent of the available ships were tied up this past summer. There is going to be a large need in both those areas for the retraining of people who are highly skilled in one sense but not necessarily highly educated in another.

Are you receptive to looking at a program in those areas to take care of people, most of whom are more than 45 years old?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The short answer is yes. I do not dispute the comments made by the critics and Mr. Gillies that we have not yet responded as comprehensively as we ought to have to the older worker. I can simply say that we are receptive and concerned about those constituencies. I expect the major thrust of this ministry over the next period will be in that area. We will take a specific look at Collingwood as initiatives are presented.

Mr. Chairman: I hope Hansard is out by Saturday, because I have to meet with them, and I will show them what you said.

Vote 2801 agreed to.

Vote 2801 supplementary agreed to.

The committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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